GOLD KEY

THE PHANTOM

MAY

NOW ONLY 12c

THE PHANTOM

by LEE FALK

A priceless diamond cup, guarded for centuries by The Phantom, suddenly vanishes!

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KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ROADS and VEHICLES

NUMBER 5

The MEDIEVAL STREET

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This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

Medieval streets were dark and narrow. Vehicles often met with no room to pass. The resulting quarrel was usually settled by blows.

Streets were choked with rubbish. Pigs and chickens foraged everywhere. Rain turned unpaved streets into rivers of mud and litter.

An important street was sometimes paved. A "kennel" down the center served as an open drain to carry off rain water and litter.

Central market places were often paved. Here one found tooth-pullers, cut-purses, conjurers and peddlers loudly crying their wares.

Medieval houses burned like tinder. A great fire could devastate a city. Progressive rulers replaced narrow streets with wide avenues.

THE PHANTOM

THE DIAMOND CUP

DESERTED BY HIS NATIVE GUIDES, HIS BODY WRACKED WITH A DREAD JUNGLE FEVER, EXPLORER DAVID WELLS USES HIS LAST CONSCIOUS GASP TO KILL A HUGE TIGER WHICH HAS FOLLOWED HIM TO A WATER HOLE...

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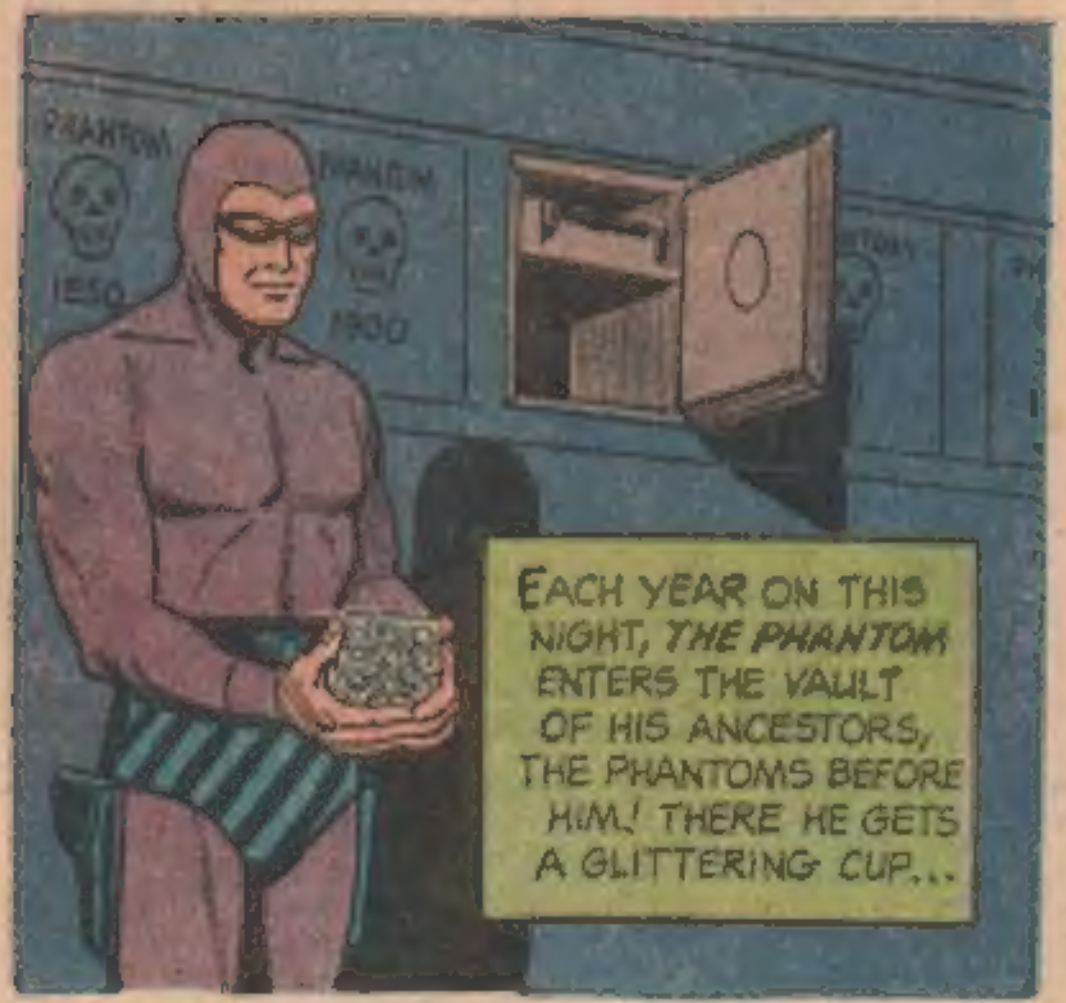
DELIRIOUS, WELLS IS CARRIED THROUGH THE DREADED DEEP WOODS TO THE FABULOUS SKULL THRONE OF *THE PHANTOM*, THE GHOST WHO WALKS!



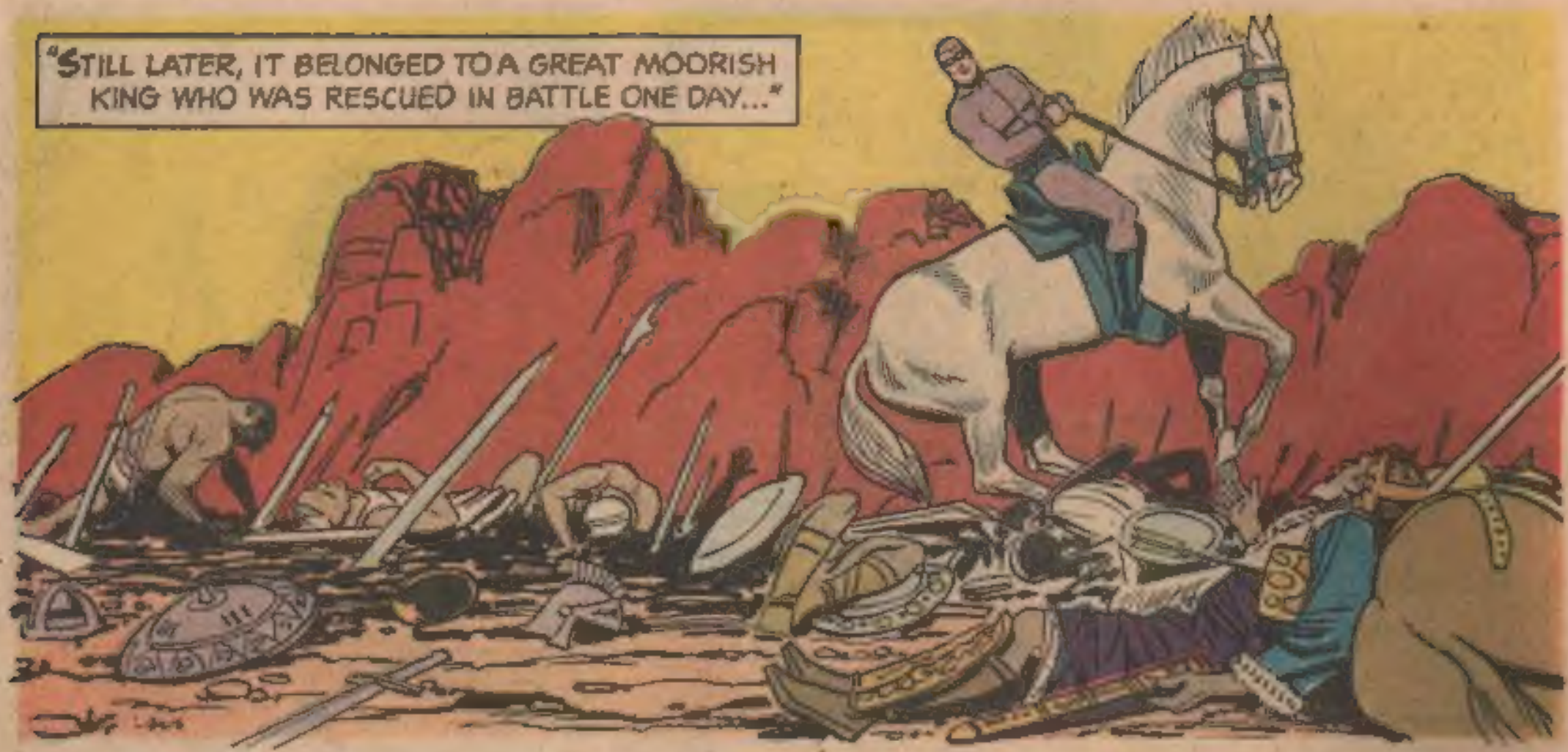
AFTER THE CEREMONY...
DOUBTLESS YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS -- ABOUT THIS PLACE -- ABOUT ME! BUT I CANNOT ANSWER THEM!
ONE THING! THAT CUP--I'VE NEVER SEEN CRYSTAL LIKE IT BEFORE!

I DON'T WONDER! IT'S NOT CRYSTAL!
--IT WAS CUT FROM SOLID DIAMOND!

THIS GREEK LETTER A CUT INTO THE BASE STANDS FOR ALEXANDER! --IT WAS ONCE HIS CUP!
YOU MEAN-- ALEXANDER THE GREAT-- WHO RULED THE WORLD?
A

"WHEN ALEXANDER TOPPLED THE GREAT PERSIAN EMPIRE AND BECAME RULER OF THE EARTH, THE CUP WAS BROUGHT TO HIM!"
ACCEPT THIS TROPHY! IT WAS FASHIONED FOR OUR GREAT XERXES BY AN EMPEROR FROM THE EAST!

"CENTURIES LATER, IT FELL INTO THE HANDS OF JULIUS CAESAR!"
ALEXANDER'S CUP!... IT WILL BE MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION!


"STILL LATER, IT BELONGED TO A GREAT MOORISH KING WHO WAS RESCUED IN BATTLE ONE DAY..."

"THUS, IT WAS GIVEN TO ONE WHO CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE 'FIRST' PHANTOM!"
FOR SAVING MY LIFE, I GIVE YOU THIS -- MY MOST VALUABLE PRIZE!

IT MUST BE THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECT ON EARTH!
MORE THAN THAT! IT IS SACRED TO ME! FOR FOUR CENTURIES, EVERY PHANTOM'S LIPS HAVE TOUCHED THIS CUP!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE BANDAR CARRY WELLS INTO THE JUNGLE, AND AFTER A JOURNEY OF SEVERAL DAYS, LEAVE HIM UNCONSCIOUS AT THE DOOR OF A HOSPITAL!

SAFELY IN A HOSPITAL AT LAST, HIS DELIRIUM GOES ON AS HE DREAMS OF ALEXANDER, A SOLID DIAMOND CUP AND OF THE PHANTOM!

WELL, LORGEN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WIN THE BET! WELLS CAN'T EVEN GET A GUIDE!
HMM--I'VE BEEN DOING SOME RE-SEARCH! THAT DIAMOND CUP REALLY EXISTED! HE MAY HAVE SEEN IT---
JUNGLE

IF HE DID, IT'S WORTH FAR MORE THAN OUR BET! I'LL GET A GUIDE FOR HIM--TRIGGER!
BUT HE'S A CROOK-- JUST OUT OF JAIL!

LATER...
TAKE THE JOB WITH WELLS! YOU MAY FIND A CERTAIN CUP! IF YOU DO, I WANT IT! GOT THAT?
CHECK!

AND SO, WITH THE DECK STACKED SO LORGEN CAN'T LOSE, THE EXPEDITION CAN BEGIN!
WELLS, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE! I'M YOUR MAN!

AFTER A LONG TREK THROUGH THE JUNGLE, WELLS AND HIS GUIDE, TRIGGER, REACH THE DEEP WOODS, HOME OF THE BANDAR--AND THE PHANTOM!
I HIRED YOU TO FIND THE PYGMIES! WE'RE NOT TURNING BACK!
LOOK--PYGMY ARROW! IT'S A WARNING TO TURN BACK!

SUDDENLY THEY ARE SURROUNDED...
THE BANDAR! PUT DOWN YOUR GUN, TRIGGER! TELL THEM I WANT TO SEE THE PHANTOM!

HIS REQUEST GRANTED, WELLS IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE SKULL THRONE...
I'M GLAD YOU'VE RECOVERED, WELLS! WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK?
IT WAS YOUR DIAMOND CUP! I CAN'T BELIEVE I REALLY SAW IT!--MAY I SEE IT AGAIN?

YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO LOOK AT THIS?
NOT EXACTLY! YOU SEE, I BET A FRIEND A HALF-MILLION THAT IT EXISTS! TO PROVE IT...IT MUST BE EXAMINED BY AN EXPERT IN TOWN!

SORRY, I DON'T APPROVE OF GAMBLING, WELLS! THIS CUP HAS BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES!
IT CANNOT BE MOVED! YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE MADE SUCH A BET!

YOU AND YOUR GUIDE CAN SLEEP HERE, WELLS! BE READY TO LEAVE AT DAWN!
THE PYGMIES WILL ESCORT YOU OUT OF THE DEEP WOODS!

LATER, TRIGGER, NOT KNOWING THE CUP IS MADE OF SOLID DIAMOND, CARRIES OUT LORGEN'S INSTRUCTIONS...
EVERYBODY'S ASLEEP! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO NAB THAT GLASS CUP!

THE NEXT DAY, WELLS AND HIS GUIDE ARE LED TO THE EDGE OF THE DEEP WOODS!
I KNOW YOUR JOB IS FINISHED, TRIGGER, BUT CAN'T WE GO BACK TO TOWN TOGETHER!
NOPE! YOU GO YOUR WAY, I'LL GO MINE! I'M IN A HURRY!

AT THE SAME MOMENT, IN THE SKULL CAVE, THE PHANTOM MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY!
THE CUP-- GONE! WELLS--!

WITHIN MINUTES, A MESSAGE IS FLASHED THROUGH THE JUNGLE, AND WELLS IS SURROUNDED!

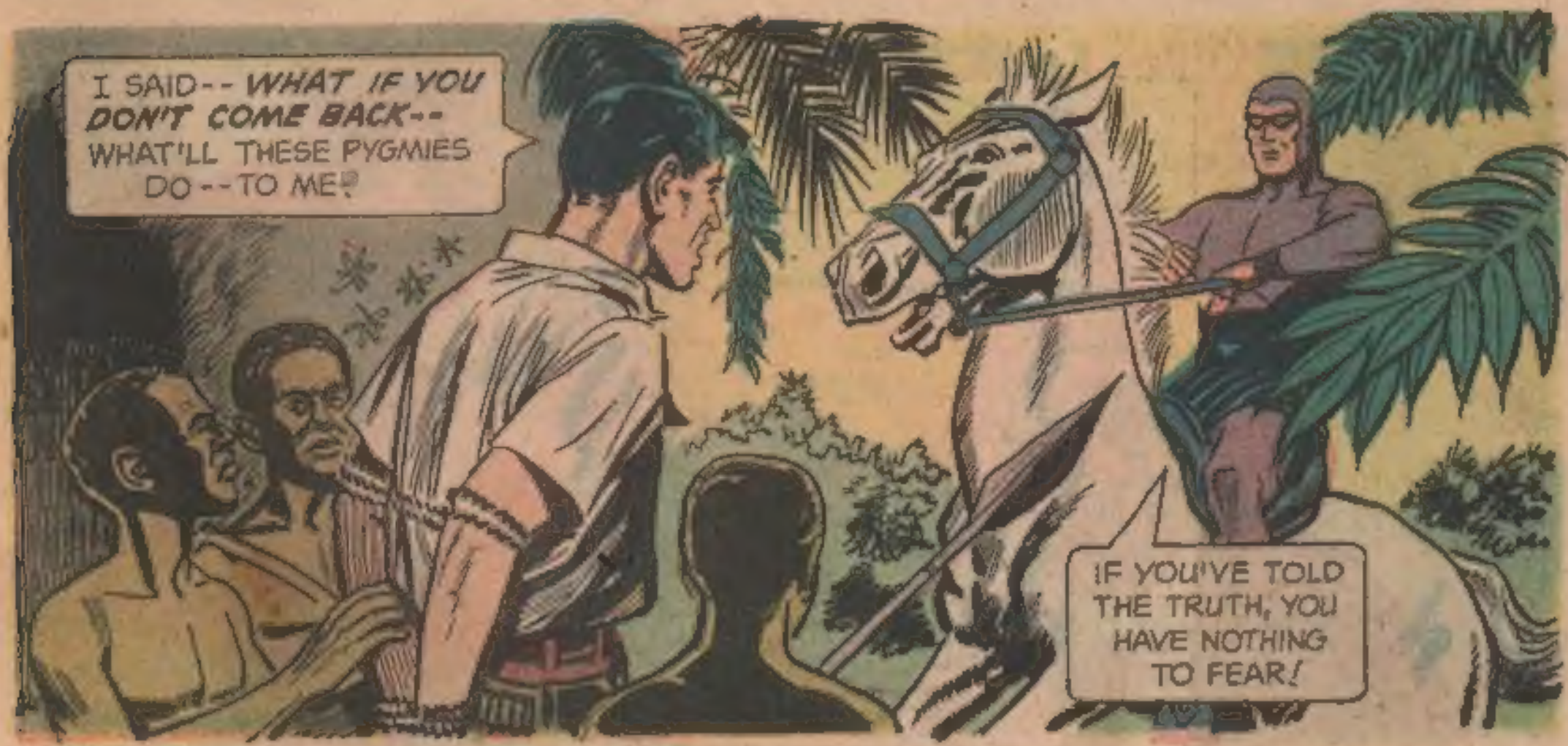
THE DEADLY PYGMIES ARE NO LONGER FRIENDLY AS THEY SILENTLY CARRY HIM BACK THROUGH THE DEEP WOODS!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?--WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHERE IS MY CUP?

WE SAVED YOUR LIFE! IS THIS YOUR GRATITUDE? MY CUP DISAPPEARED WHEN YOU LEFT THIS MORNING!

IT WASN'T ME! TRIGGER MUST HAVE TAKEN IT! AS SOON AS WE LEFT THE DEEP WOODS, HE DESERTED ME!
IS THAT YOUR STORY?

I'LL GO TO TOWN AND SEE IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE! STAY HERE!
HERE?--BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T COME BACK?


I SAID--WHAT IF YOU DON'T COME BACK--WHAT'LL THESE PYGMIES DO--TO ME?
IF YOU'VE TOLD THE TRUTH, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

YOU'VE GOT THE CUP, TRIGGER! LET ME SEE IT ---AH!
WHAT A WEIRD SETUP! PYGMIES... A MASKED MAN... SAY, LORGEN, WHAT'S SO VALUABLE ABOUT THIS HUNK OF GLASS?

YOU SENT FOR ME, MR. LORGEN?
YES, JUST A MOMENT!
TAKE OFF TRIGGER, I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

WHY... MR. LORGEN... THIS CUP IS SOLID DIAMOND!

YOU'RE A COZY ONE, MISTER LORGEN! SENDING ME TO RISK MY NECK FOR A GLASS CUP!
WAIT TRIGGER I MEANT TO PAY YOU PLENTY -- HALF OF WHAT THE CUP IS WORTH!

THAT'S BETTER! WE'LL START WITH AN ADVANCE! -- EVERYTHING IN THAT SAFE! OPEN IT!

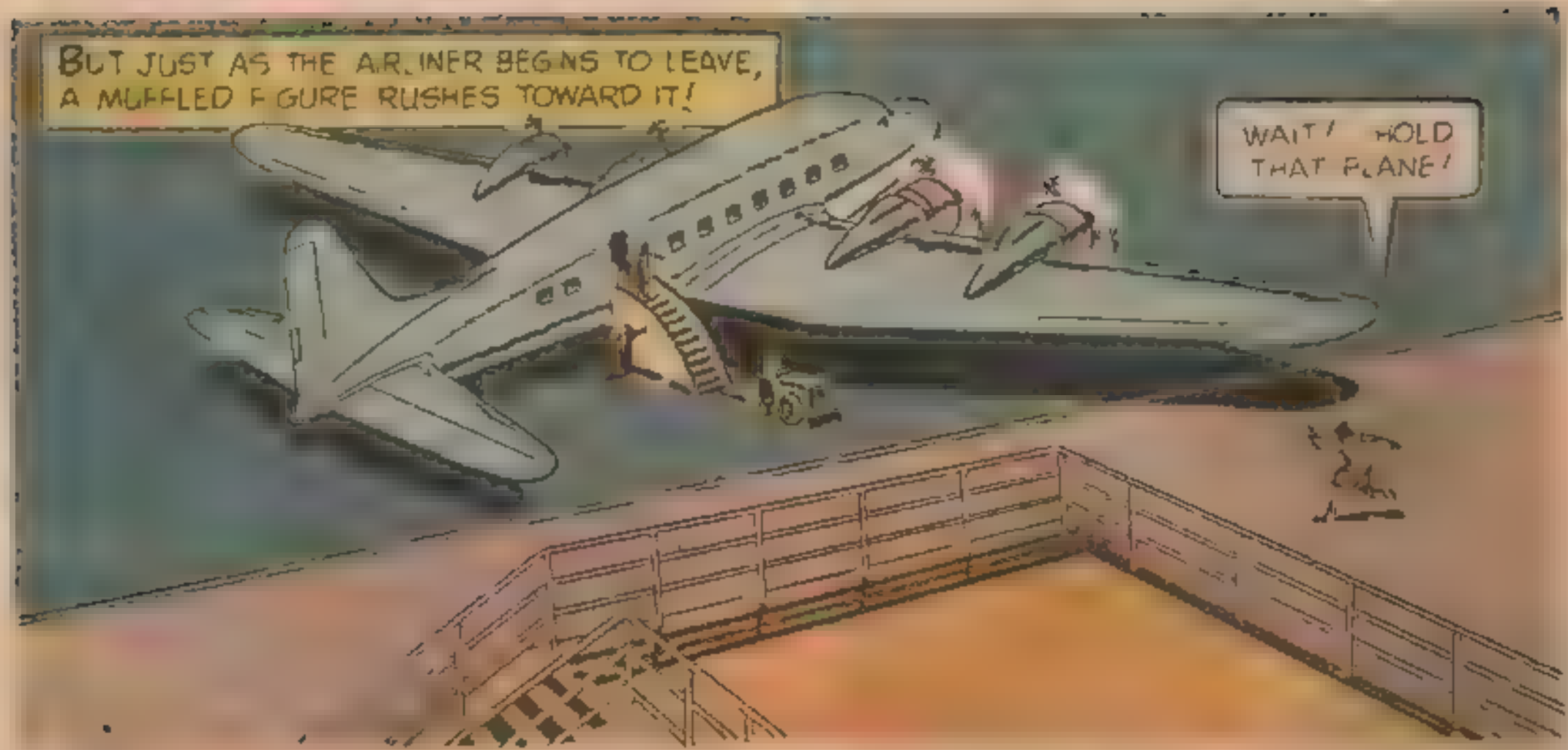
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK I'LL TAKE *THE CUP!* -- IT'S EASIER TO CARRY ANYWAY!
UHH!

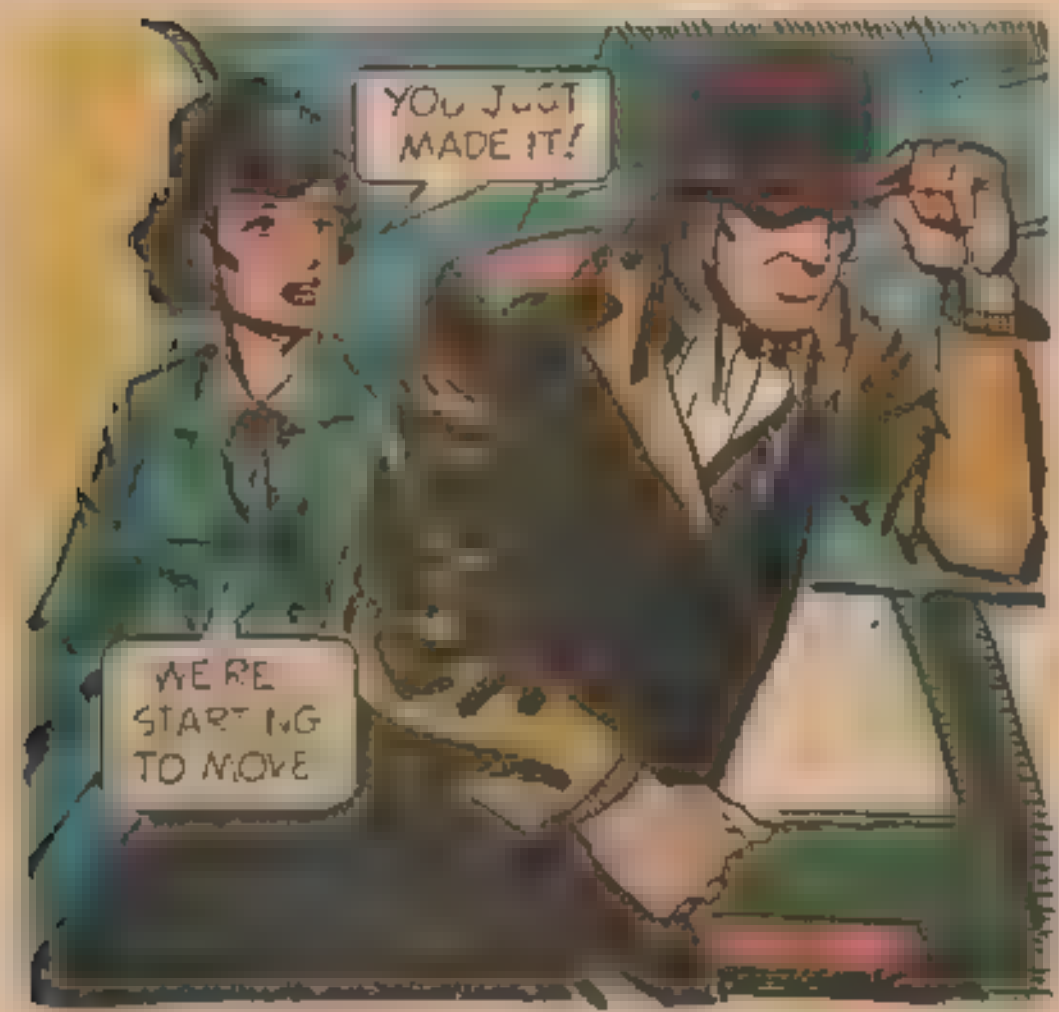
THE PHANTOM ARRIVES TOO LATE TO PREVENT TRIGGER'S ESCAPE.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS MY CUP?
CUP? -- TRIGGER SLUGGED ME -- TOOK THE CUP!

WHERE DID TRIGGER GO?
PROBABLY TRYING -- TO SKIP THE COUNTRY -- AIRPORT MAYBE -- NO PLACE ELSE TO GO!

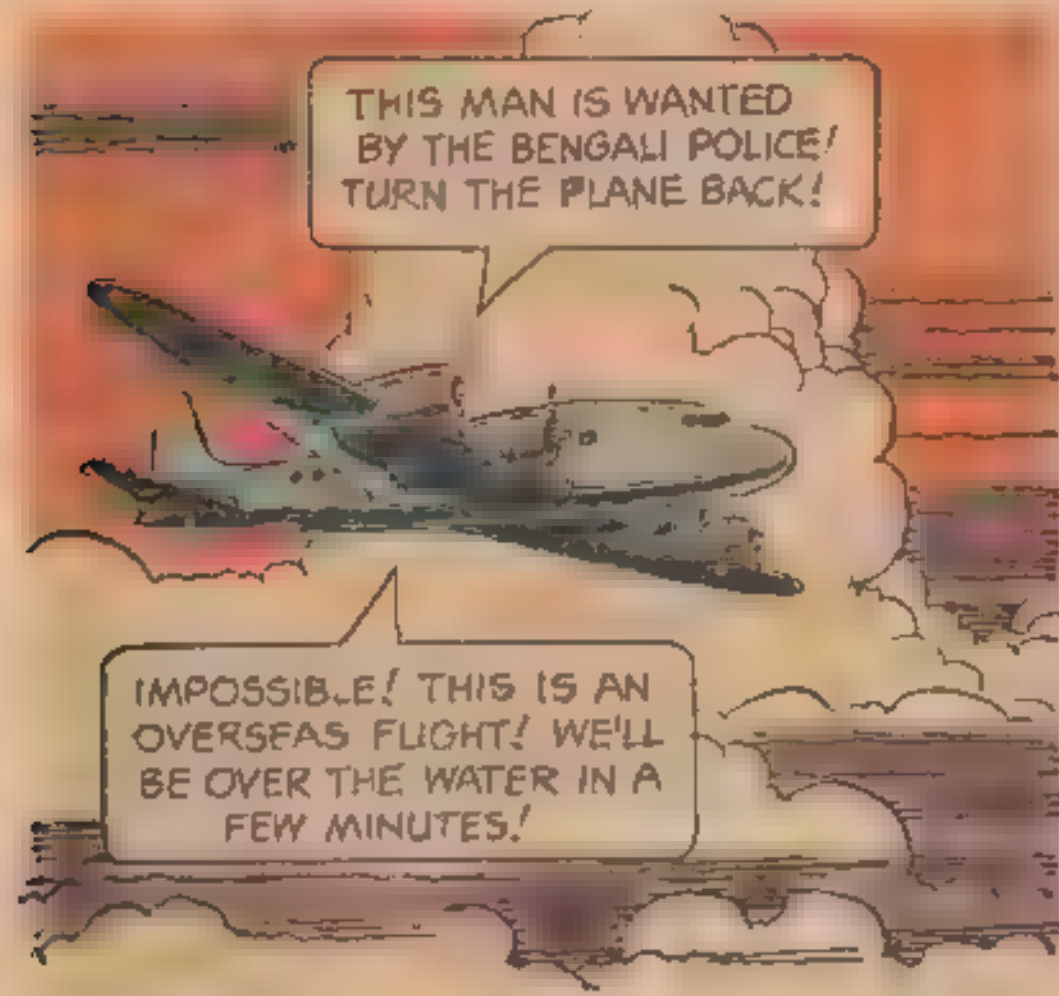
I'LL BORROW SOME OF YOUR CLOTHES! THEY'LL BE RETURNED WHEN I GET MY CUP!
WHO -- ARE -- YOU?

MEANWHILE...
ALL ABOARD, PLEASE!
AT LAST! I THOUGHT THEY'D *NEVER* GET GOING! NO SIGN OF ANYONE AFTER ME -- YET!


BUT JUST AS THE AIRLINER BEGINS TO LEAVE, A MUFFLED FIGURE RUSHES TOWARD IT!
WAIT! HOLD THAT PLANE!


YOU JUST MADE IT!
WE'RE STARTING TO MOVE

TRIGGER, I'VE COME FOR YOU AND THE CUP!
YOU CAN'T ARREST ME WITHOUT A WARRANT.


THIS MAN IS WANTED BY THE BENGALI POLICE! TURN THE PLANE BACK!
IMPOSSIBLE! THIS IS AN OVERSEAS FLIGHT! WE'LL BE OVER THE WATER IN A FEW MINUTES!

VERY WELL, BRING ME TWO PARACHUTES ...AND HURRY!

DO AS I TELL YOU, AT ONCE!

BUT, SIR, YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?

LOOK OUT! HE HAS A GUN HE MADE ME GET TWO PARACHUTES!

CAPTAIN, THIS MAN IS OUT ON PAROLE! HE STOLE A PRICELESS ART TREASURE FROM ME! I'M TAKING HIM BACK!

NO-O-O-O!

WHILE, IN THE DEEP JUNGLES

THESE...PYGMIES...KEEP WATCHING ME! THEY THINK I STOLE THAT CUP! IF THE PHANTOM DOESN'T COME BACK SOON, THEY'LL KILL ME!

BUT THE PHANTOM IS MANY MILES AWAY!

I GUESS YOU KNOW THIS MAN, SERGEANT!

WE SURE DO! ..WELCOME HOME, TRIGGER!

NOW FOR A VISIT TO LORGEN AND AND TH S CASE OF THE STOLEN CUP WILL BE CLOSED!

LORGEN, YOU BET WELLS THIS CUP DIDN'T EXIST! THEN YOU HIRED TRIGGER TO STEAL IT! ... NOW I CAN PRESS CHARGES AGA NST *YOU* FOR STEALING *MY* CUP!

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'VE HAD YOUR PUNISHMENT! YOU MADE A HUGE BET WITH WELLS, WHICH YOU LOST! -- IF YOU'LL SPEND THAT MONEY ON A NATIVE HOSPITAL, I'LL FORGET THE WHOLE THING!

IT S A *DEAL!* WHEW! I WAS A FOOL!

YOU GOT THE CUP BACK! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! I WAS AFRA D THE PYG MIES WOULD--

THEY WON'T HARM YOU, WELLS! THEY'LL ESCORT YOU HOME!

I HOPE YOU WON T FORGET TH S LESSON --*DON'T BET!*

AND THE FAB[illegible] DIAMOND CUP STRUCK WHERE IT B[illegible] IN THE [illegible] OF *THE PHANTOM!*

KING, QUEEN AND JACK

THE LION HUNT

VICTOR KING AND FRANCIS QUEEN HAVE BEEN WHITE HUNTERS FOR MANY YEARS. THEY ARE ABOUT TO INTRODUCE YOUNG JACK FOREST TO THE PITFALLS OF THE LION HUNT!

WELL, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH US A SPELL, JACK, YOU MIGHT AS WELL LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT HUNTING!

YOU CAN SIT IN WHILE WE BRIEF OUR TWO CLIENTS, LAD.

SWELL!

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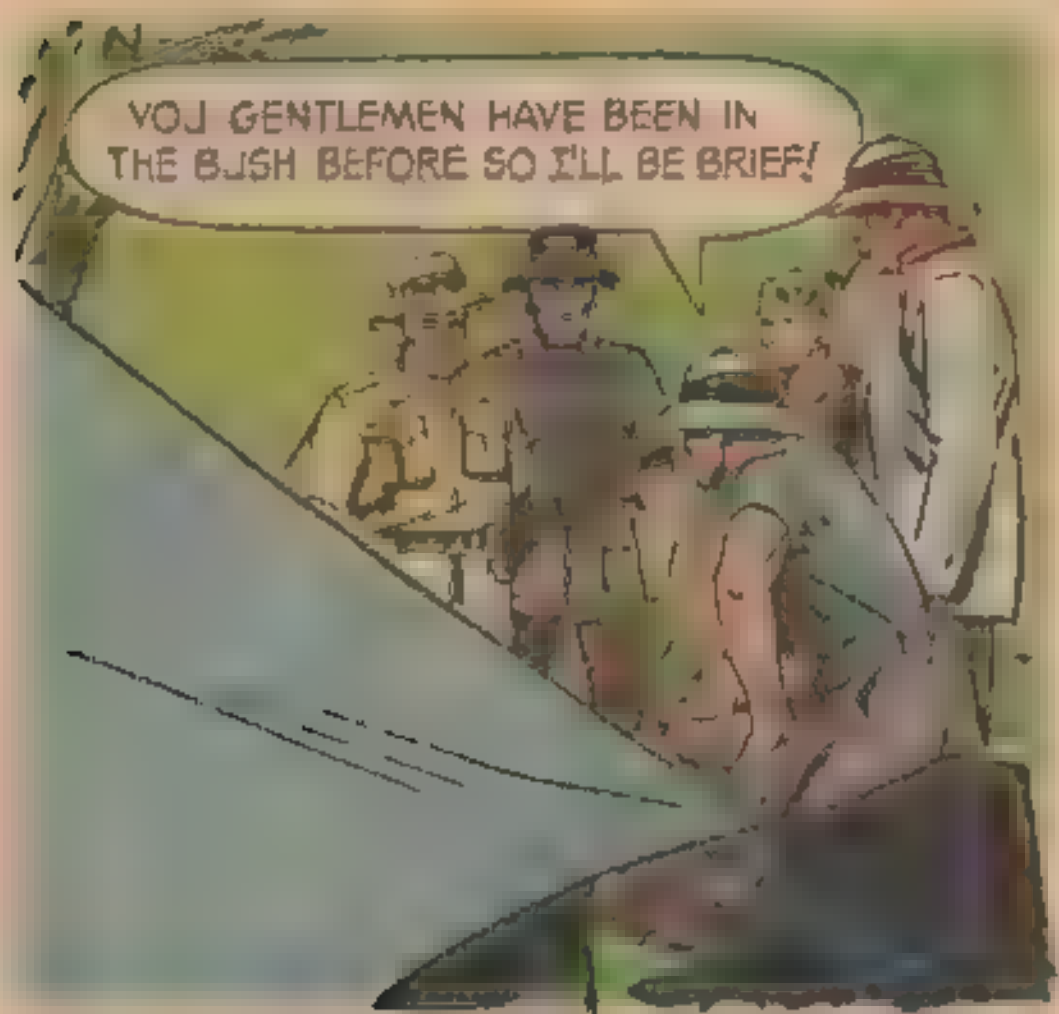
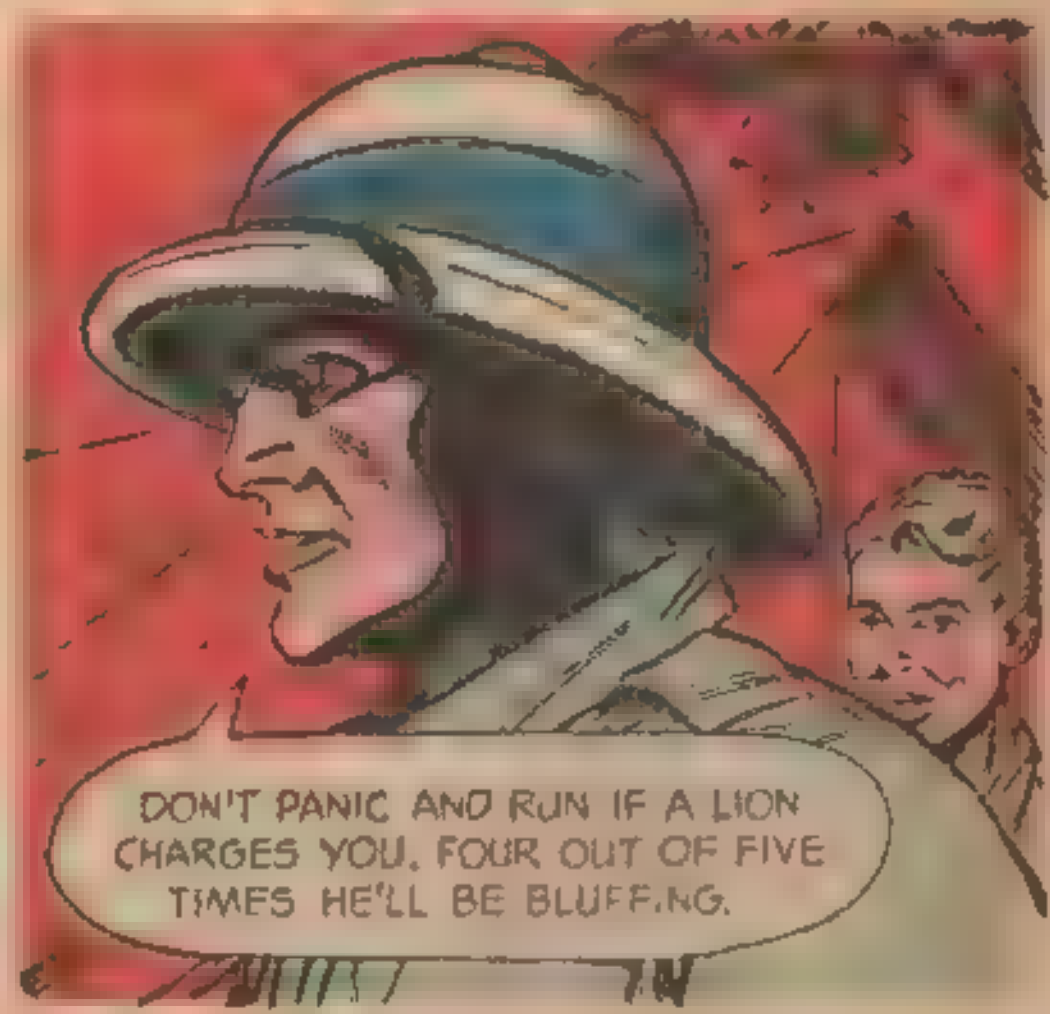




YOU CAN ONLY BE HURT IF YOU FAIL TO USE GOOD JUDGEMENT!
AND STAY OUT OF REAL TALL GRASS! IT'S A LION'S PARADISE!

TWO DAYS LATER
THE TRACKS ARE FRESH, BWANA
TWO SETS OF TRACKS. THE LION IS STALKING A KUDU!

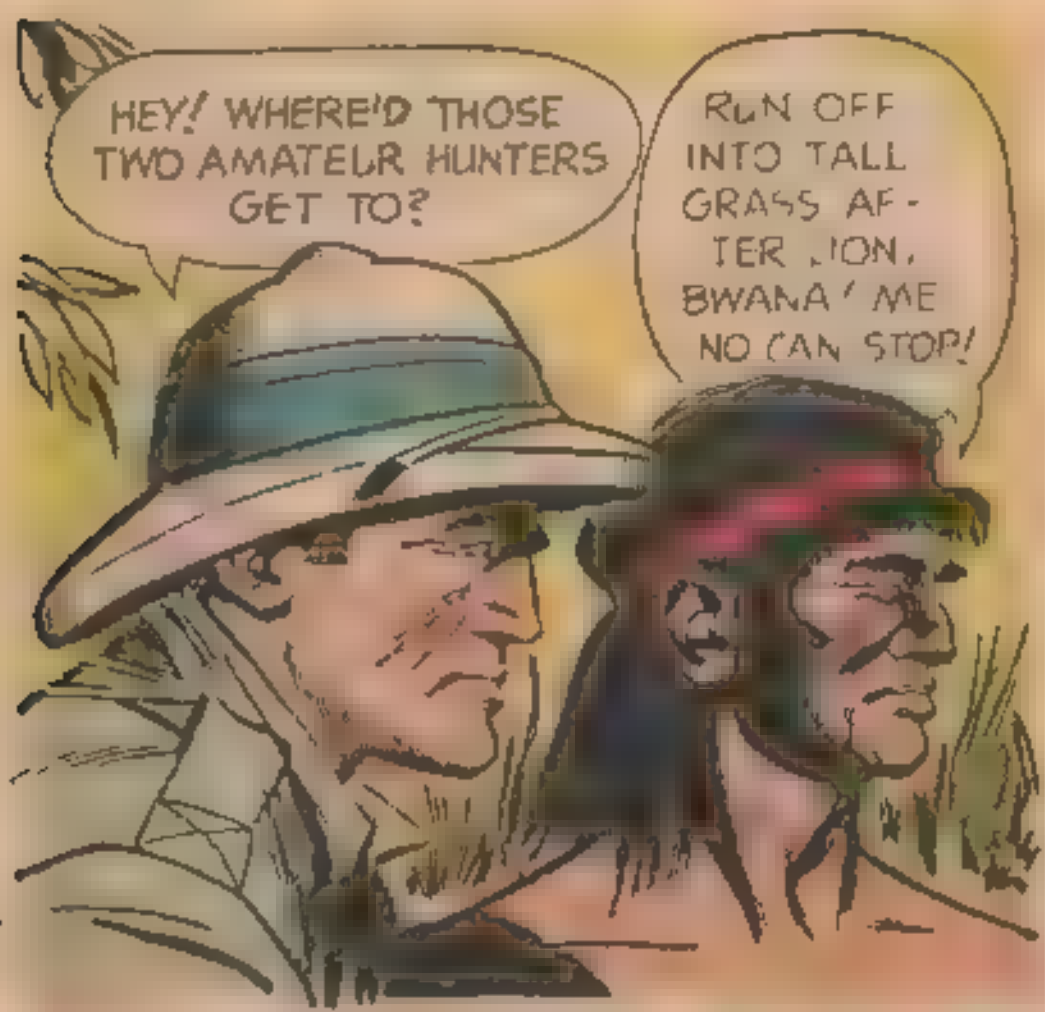
SHORTLY...
CAREFUL, EVERYONE, WE SHOULD BE GETTING QUITE CLOSE, NOW!

SUDDENLY..

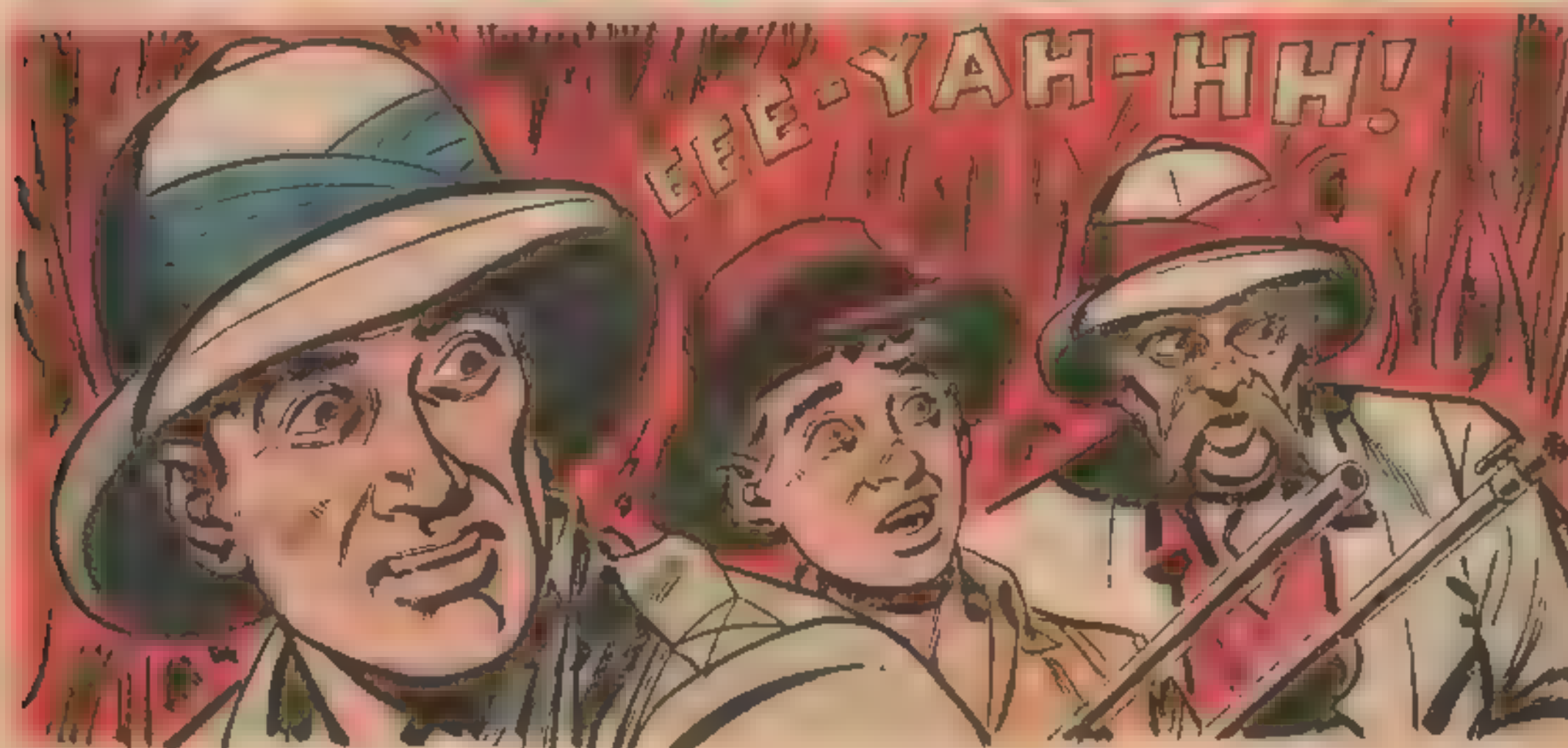
NOT GIVEN A CHANCE TO RAISE HIS GUN, KING FIRES FROM THE HIP.

HOLD YOUR FIRE! HE'S GONE!
D SAPPEARED IN- TO THE TA.. GRASS!
BY JOVE, THAT WAS A FRIGHT!

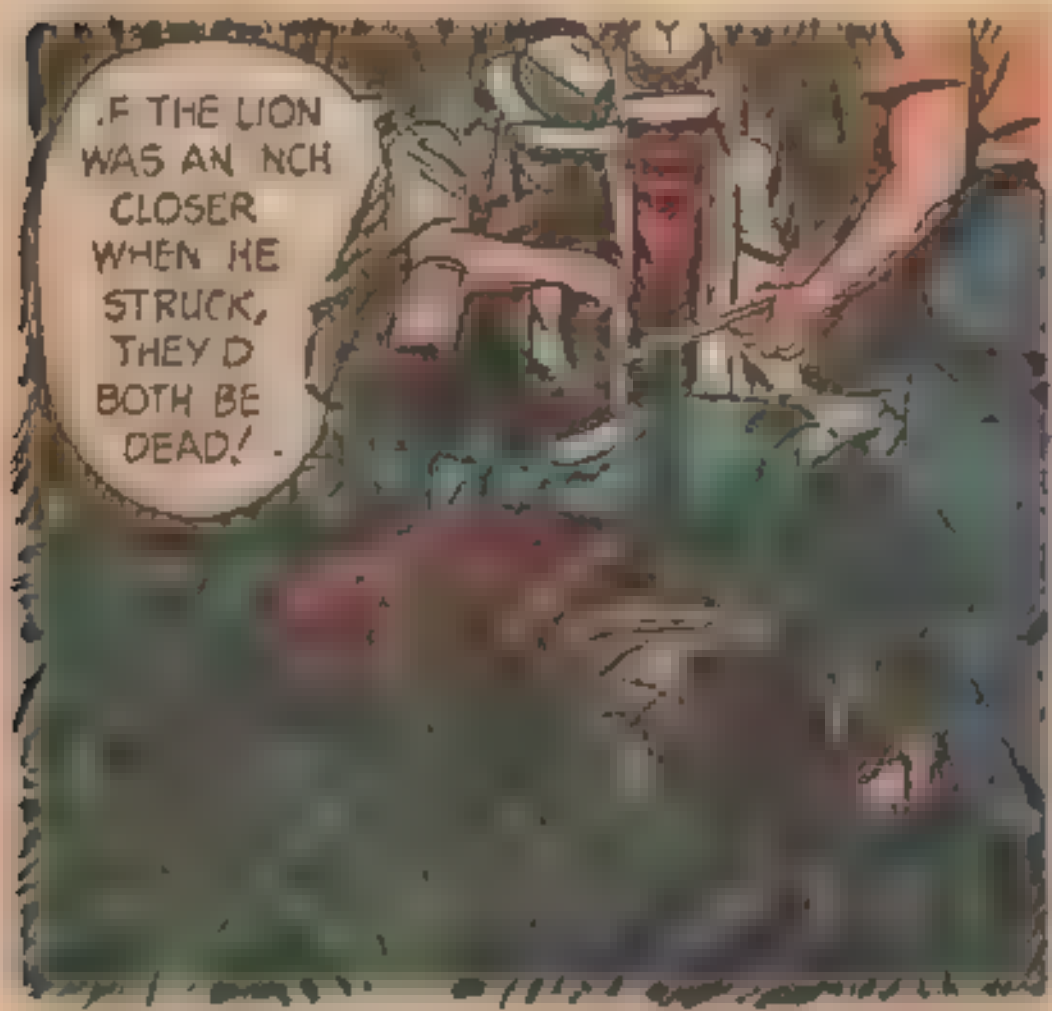
GOSH! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE HORNS!
YES, JACK! HE'S QUITE A PRIZE!
THE KUDU! LION'S DINNER.

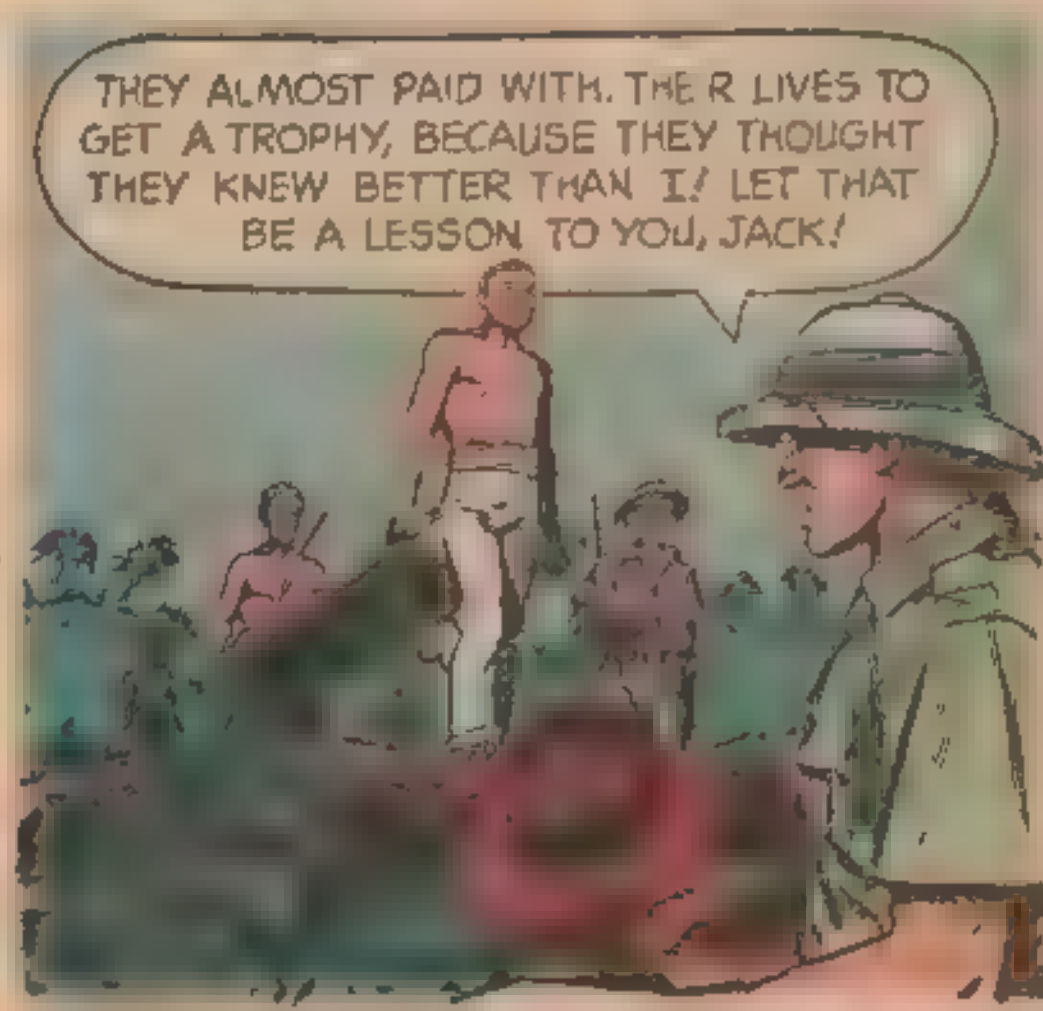

HEY! WHERE'D THOSE TWO AMATEUR HUNTERS GET TO?
RUN OFF INTO TALL GRASS AF- TER LION, BWANA! ME NO CAN STOP!

THE FOOLS! COME ON, QUEEN!
STAY BETWEEN US, LAD!


EEE-YAH-HH!

THEY FIRE AGAIN AND AGAIN


.F THE LION WAS AN NCH CLOSER WHEN HE STRUCK, THEY D BOTH BE DEAD!


THEY ALMOST PAID WITH. THE R LIVES TO GET A TROPHY, BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THEY KNEW BETTER THAN I! LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU, JACK!

TWO WEEKS LATER AT THE HOSP TAL...
WOULD ONE OF YOU GENTLE-MEN MIND TOSS-ING A COIN! TAILS I GET THE LION HEAD FOR A TROPHY...
HEADS I GET THE KUDU!

THE TWO MEN RECOVERED! AND WERE PROUD OF THEIR TROPH ES! BUT THEY NEVER TRED TO OUTSMART A LION AGAIN!
LOOK FOR KING, QUEEN AND JACK IN THE NEXT . SSUE OF THE PHANTOM!

Modern Witchcraft

In these days when our world is being increasingly dominated by the field of science, it is strange to realize that there are many among us who still practice an ancient form of magic—the art of dowsing.

Dowsing, or water-witching, is a method of finding underground springs by means of a forked stick. Holding the forked end with his two hands the dowser crosses the terrain searching for water. The stick is said to twitch violently as it passes over any source of water in the earth below.

Dowsing is believed to have originated thousands of years ago. In the Middle Ages it was used to locate minerals and was often denounced as a form of black magic. By the 17th century the dowsing stick was being used throughout Europe and Colonial America as an infallible method for locating water underground.

Dowsers disagree about which kind of wood makes the best dowsing rod. Popular choices are peach, cherry, witch hazel and ash!

In Europe dowsing is called Radiesthesia, and has some scientific standing. But instead of a dowsing stick, Europeans use a pendulum device. The pendulums may be made of plastic, marble, crystal and ivory. Like the forked stick, the pendulum is supposed to react when the operator passes over an underground water source. However in Europe these devices are used to locate not only water but various underground mineral supplies.

Does this system really work? Scientists have scoffed at it for centuries. But in 1953 prominent European scientists, working under a U.N. grant, studied Radiesthesia and reported, amazingly, "There can be no doubt, it is a fact!"

Other European scientific institutions have endorsed it. The Academy of Sciences of Paris concluded that Radiesthetic power did exist, but admitted its nature had not been determined.

In attempting to analyze the nature of this weird power, some scientists point out that all matter contains electrons in its atomic structure. In their constant motion, electrons produce energy. The energy produced by different elements differs in frequency of vibration and wave length from that produced by other elements.

Scientists and prospectors have long used the Geiger counter to trace radioactive minerals. Is it not possible that similar methods can be used to trace the electronic energy emitted by other kinds of matter?

Other scientists reply that dowsing is a fraud. They claim the forked stick is twitched and jerked by the dowser himself and not by unseen underground forces. As for the Radiesthetic pendulum, any movement of the operator's arm can make it swing or turn. Such scientific organizations as the U.S. Geodetic Survey and the Smithsonian Institute have called dowsing a fraud.

Yet such large corporations as R.C.A. and Bristol-Myers have hired dowsers to locate water for their manufacturing plants when professional geologists failed to find adequate water resources.

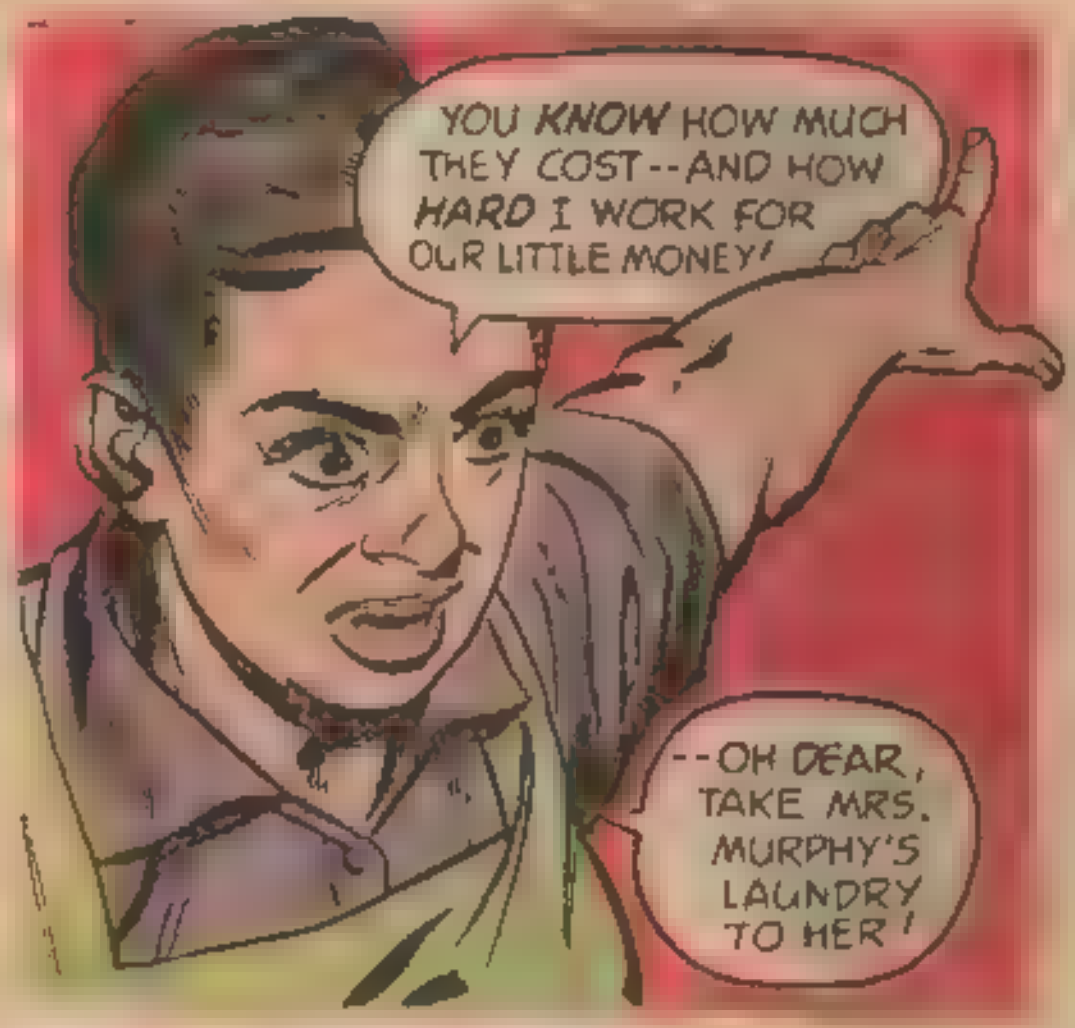
Dowsing or Radiesthesia . . . Is it fact or fiction? The scientific jury is still out. The world awaits its verdict!

THE PHANTOM

THE CRYBABY

LISTEN TO THE CRYBABY!

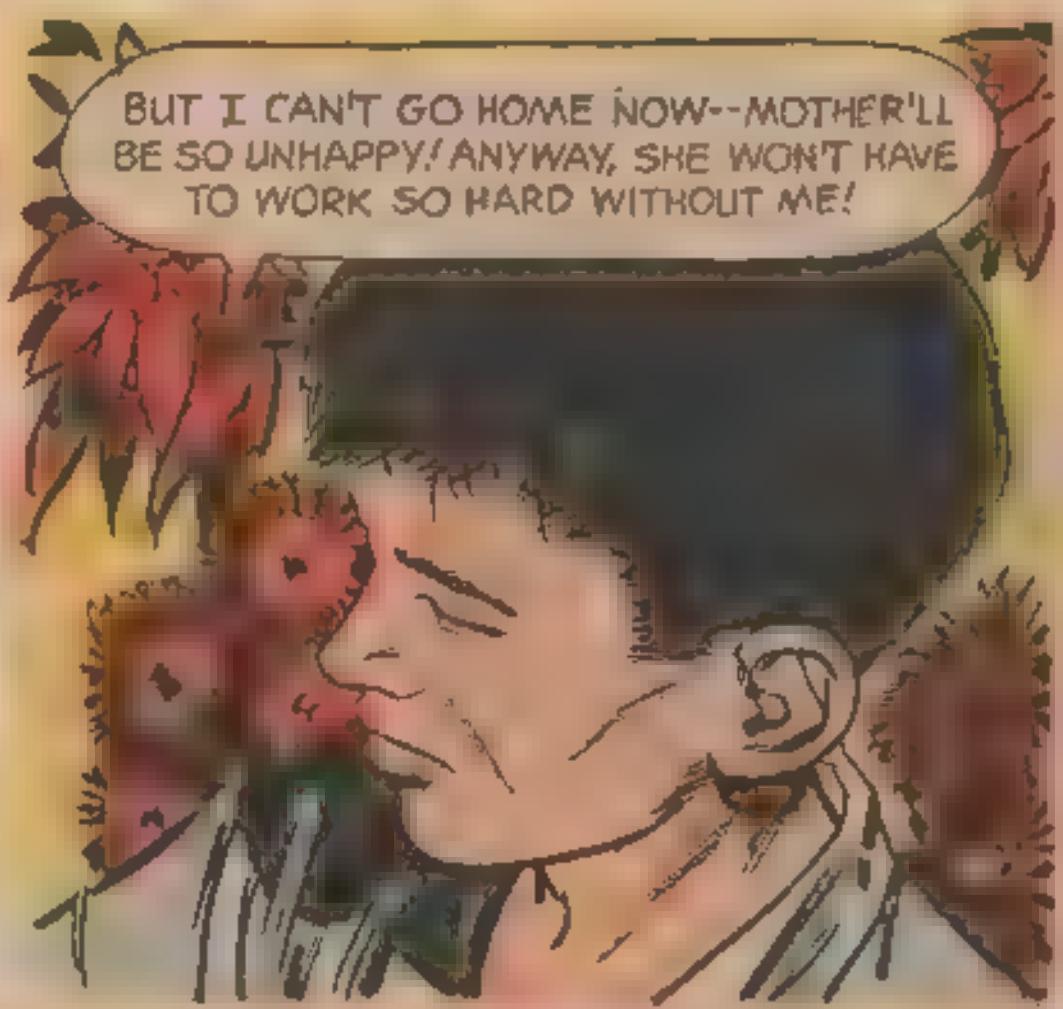
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, CECIL, EVERY DAY THIS WEEK!

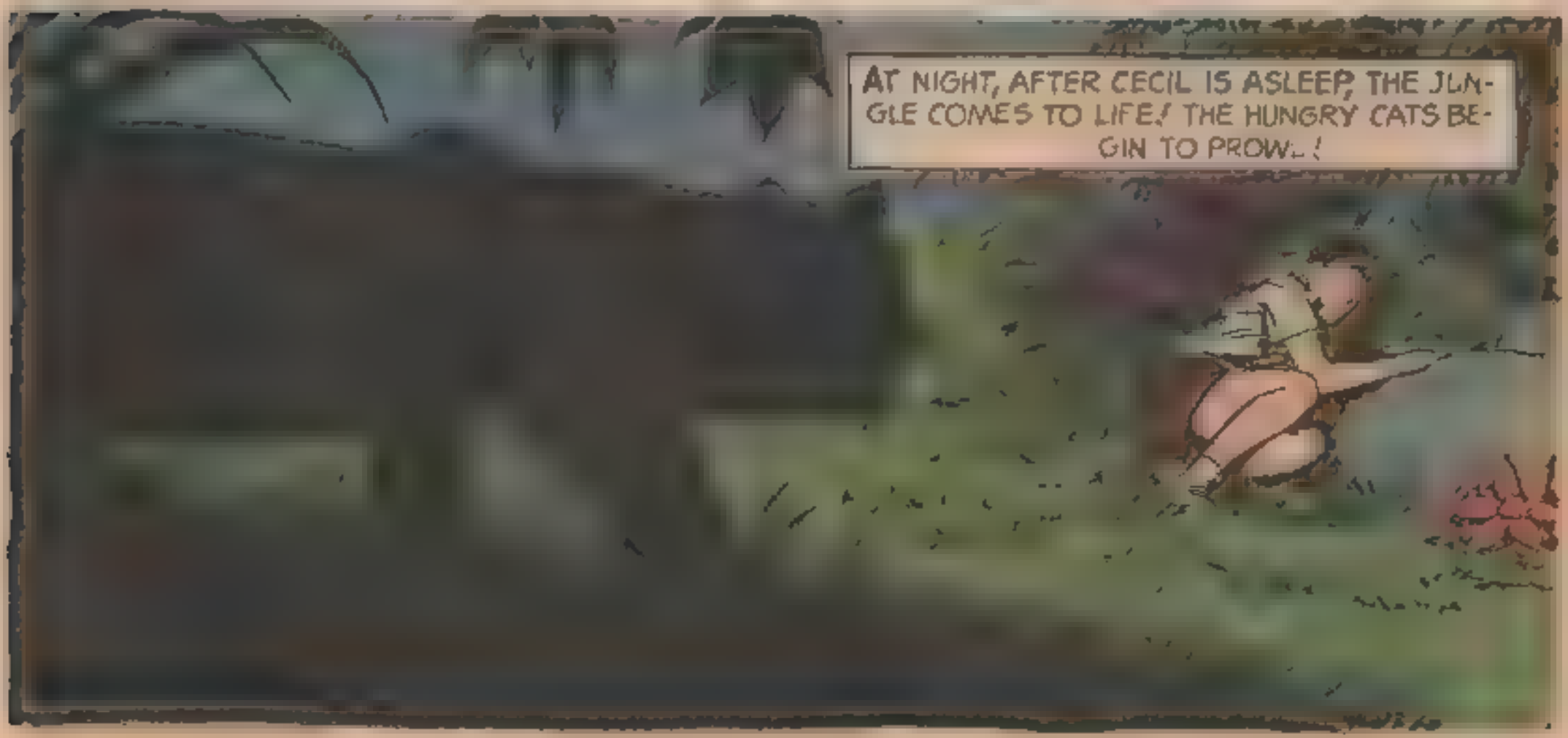


WHAT'LL I DO? MOTHER NEEDS THE MONEY FOR MRS. MURPHY'S LAUNDRY... BUT IT GOT ALL MUDDY!

UNABLE TO FACE HIS MOTHER, CECIL DECIDES TO RUN AWAY - INTO THE JUNGLE!
I CAN'T GO BACK I CAN'T!

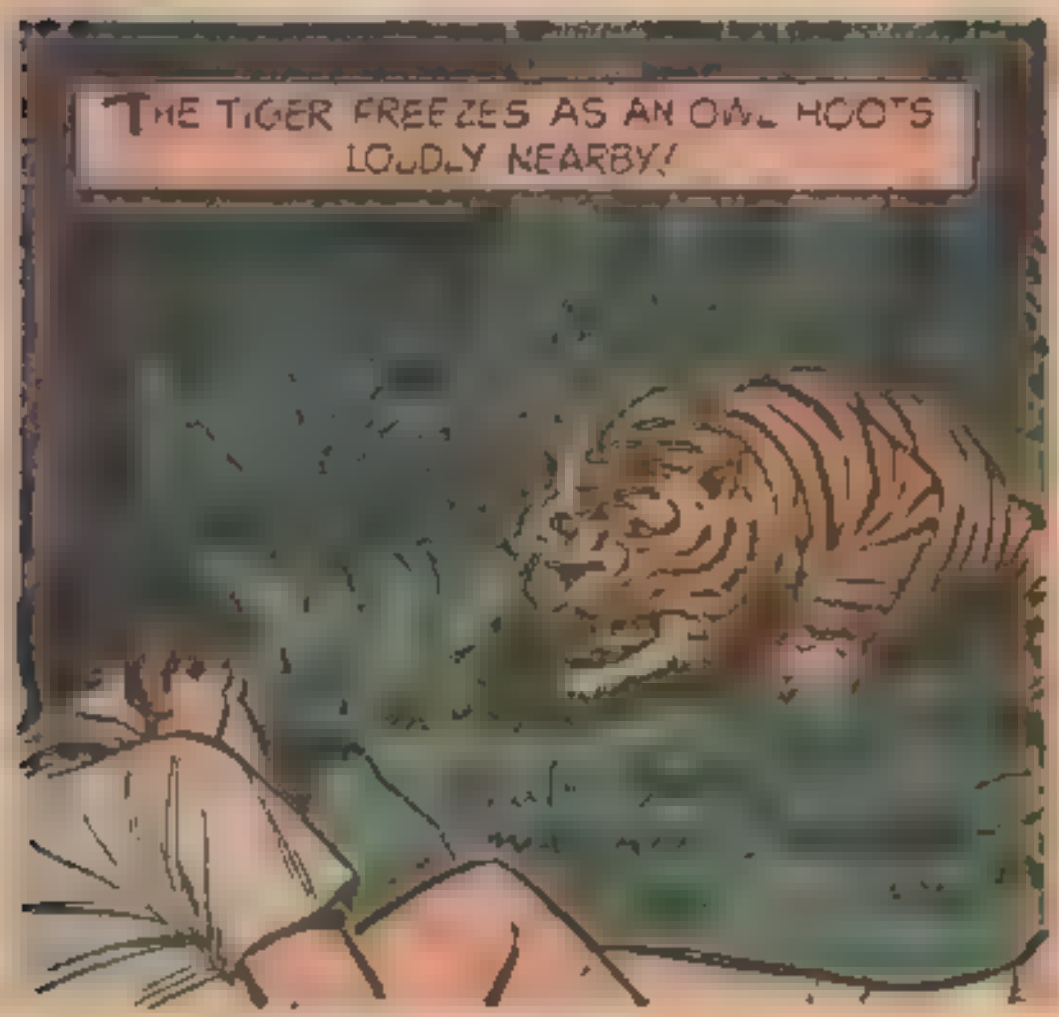
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM--I'VE WALKED SO FAR...BUT WHO CARES!


BUT I CAN'T GO HOME NOW--MOTHER'LL BE SO UNHAPPY! ANYWAY, SHE WON'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD WITHOUT ME!


AT NIGHT, AFTER CECIL IS ASLEEP, THE JUNGLE COMES TO LIFE! THE HUNGRY CATS BEGIN TO PROWL!

NOT FAR AWAY, THE PHANTOM IS ON A TIGER HUNT--WITH A SPEAR!

HE'S GOT THE SCENT OF SOMETHING!
NOT US- WE'RE DOWNWIND!


THE TIGER FREEZES AS AN OWL HOOTS LOUDLY NEARBY!

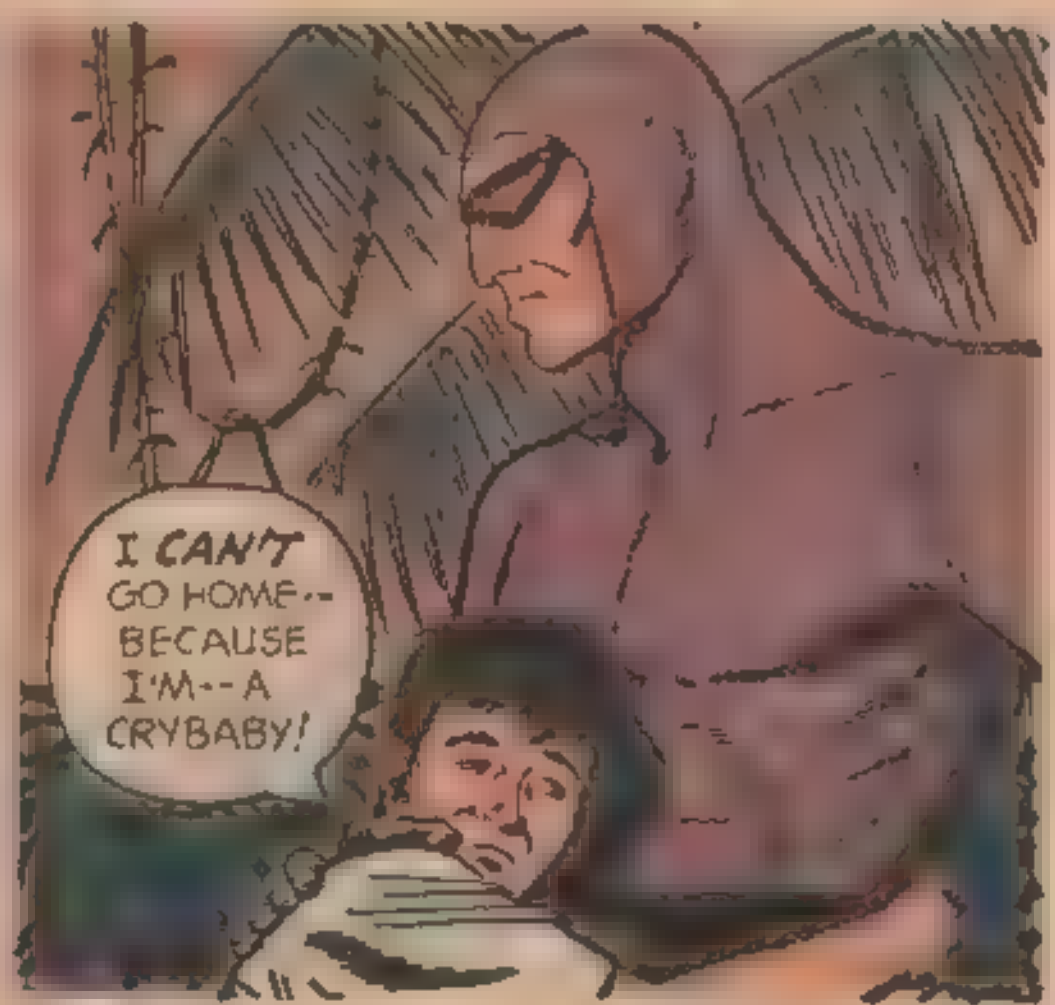
THE OWL ALSO AWAKENS CEC
UH--WHERE AM I-- OH! A TIGER!

THE TIGER!-- HE'S BEEN STALKING THAT LITTLE BOY!

FAMED FOR HIS TIGER HUNTING WITH A SPEAR, THE PHANTOM MEETS AND HOLDS FAST AGAINST THE IMPACT OF THE HUGE BEAST

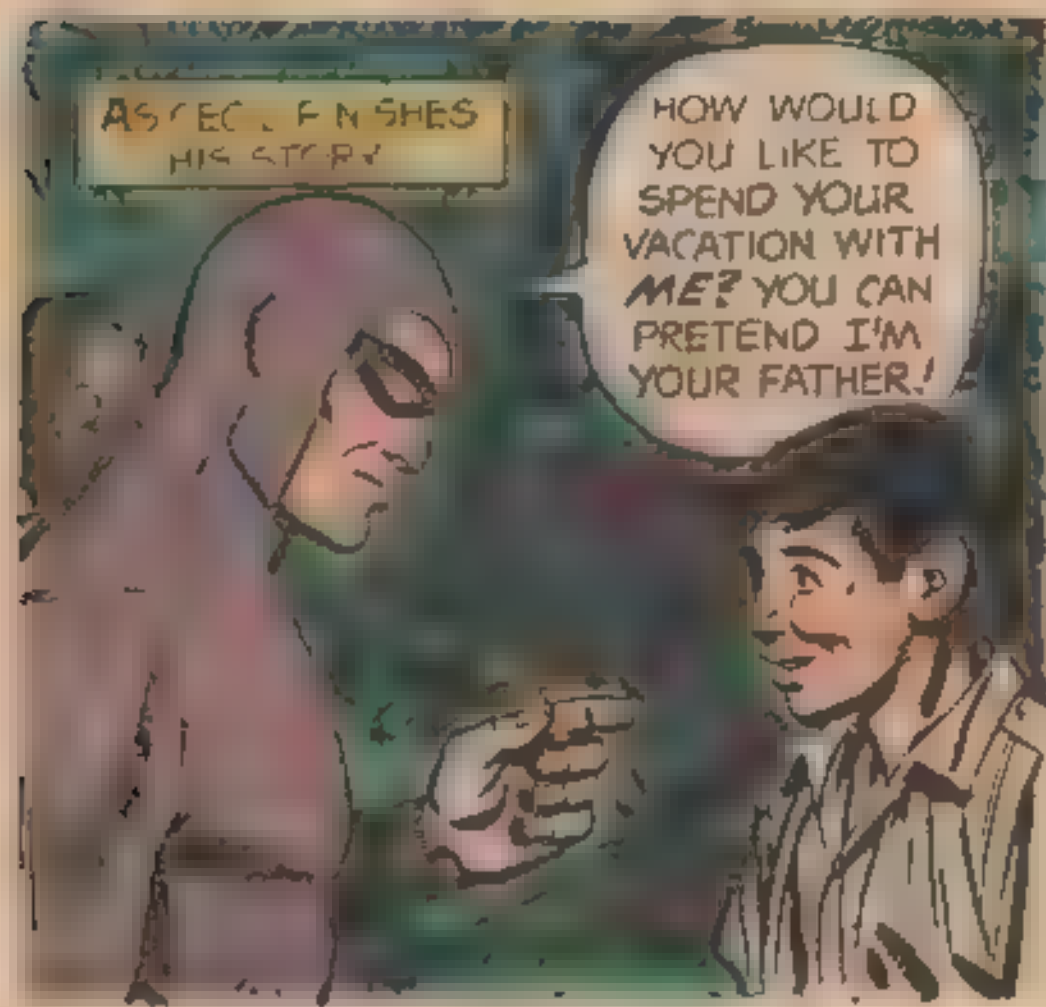
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE JUNGLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT? WHY AREN'T YOU HOME IN BED?
YOU WEAR A MASK!-- YOU'RE A BURGLAR! -- A BAD MAN!

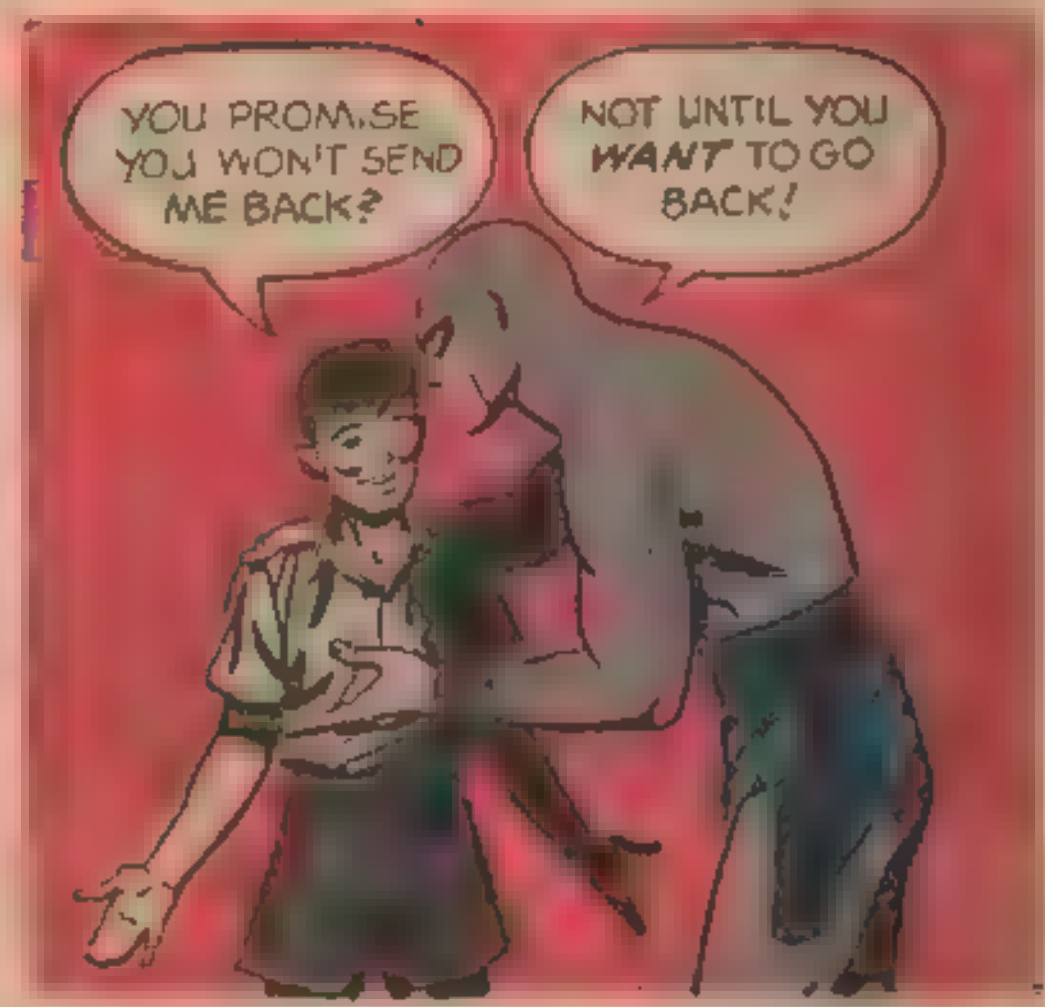
IN SPITE OF MY MASK, I'M NOT A BAD MAN! TO PROVE IT, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!

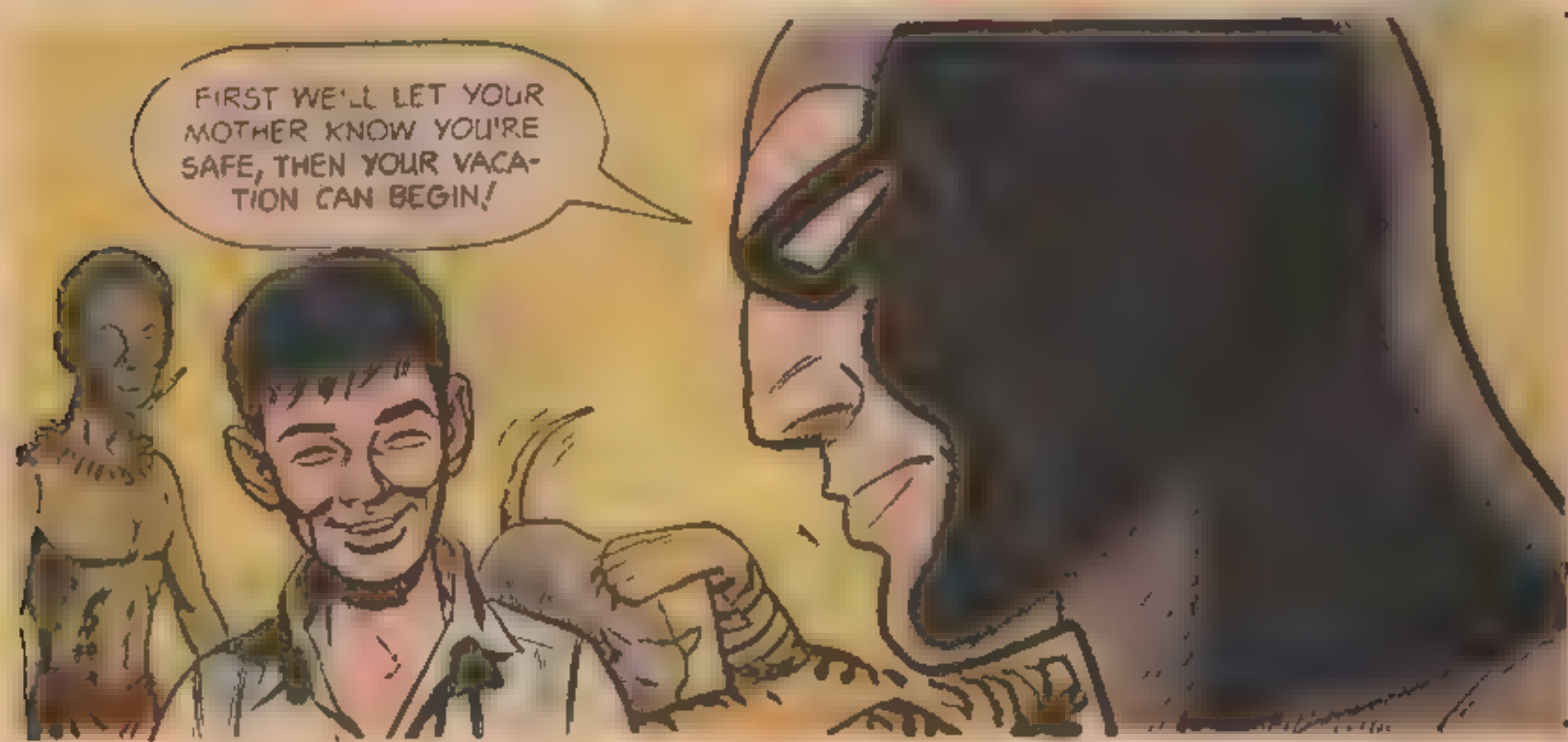

I CAN'T GO HOME-- BECAUSE I'M-- A CRYBABY!

IT'S THAT MIKE! HE'S *BIGGER* THAN I AM--
--BESIDES, I NEVER KNEW HOW TO FIGHT!

THEN, YESTERDAY, THE WORST THING HAPPENED! MIKE RUINED MRS MURPHY'S LAUNDRY!-- I CAN'T GO BACK AFTER *THAT!*

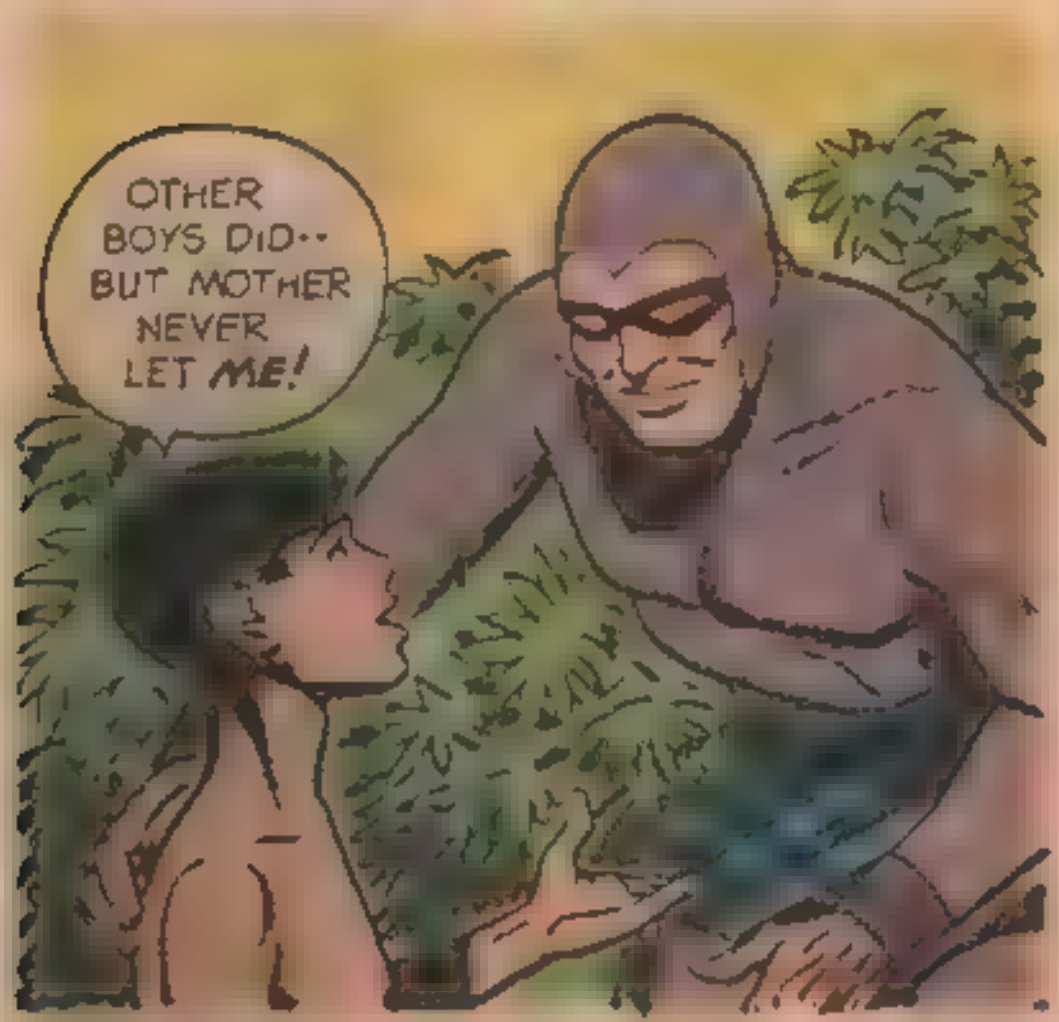

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR VACATION WITH *ME?* YOU CAN PRETEND I'M YOUR FATHER!

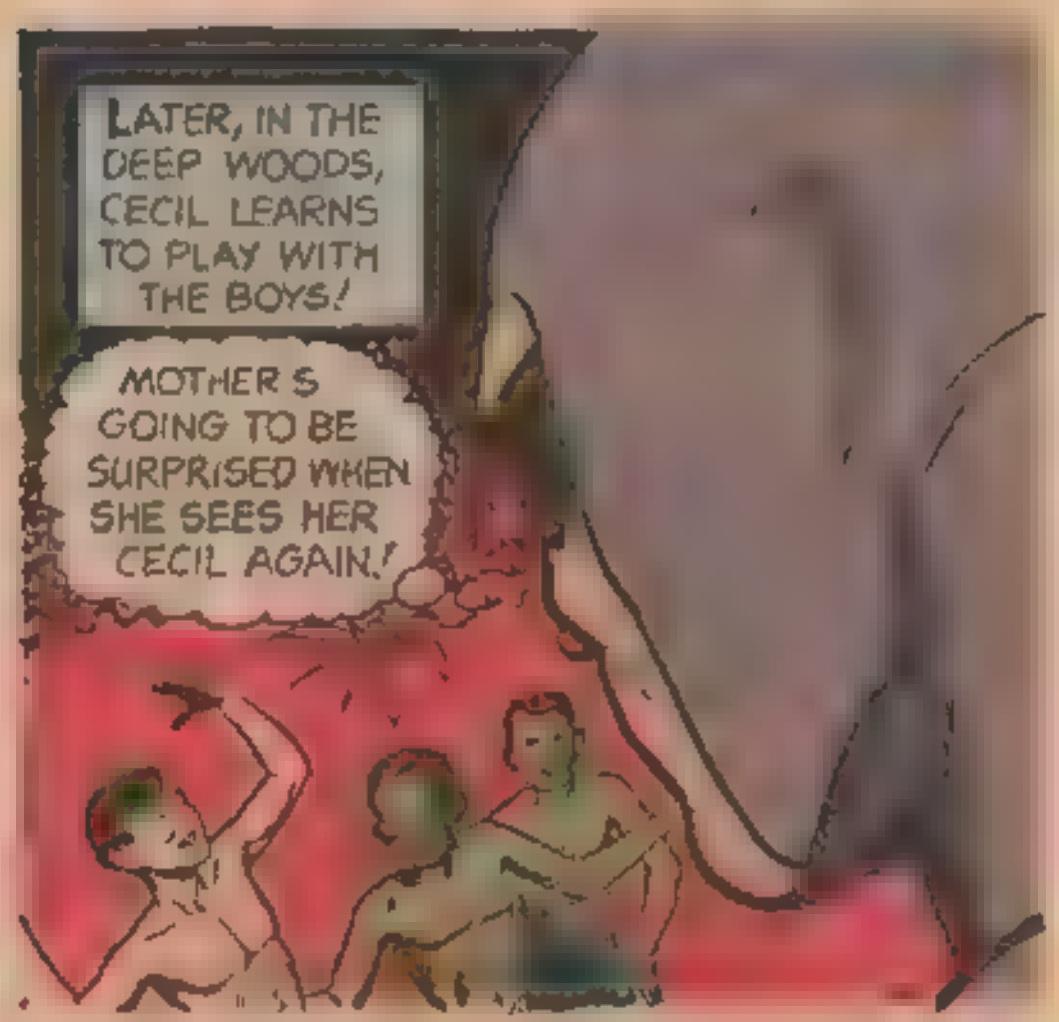

YOU PROMISE YOU WON'T SEND ME BACK?
NOT UNTIL YOU *WANT* TO GO BACK!

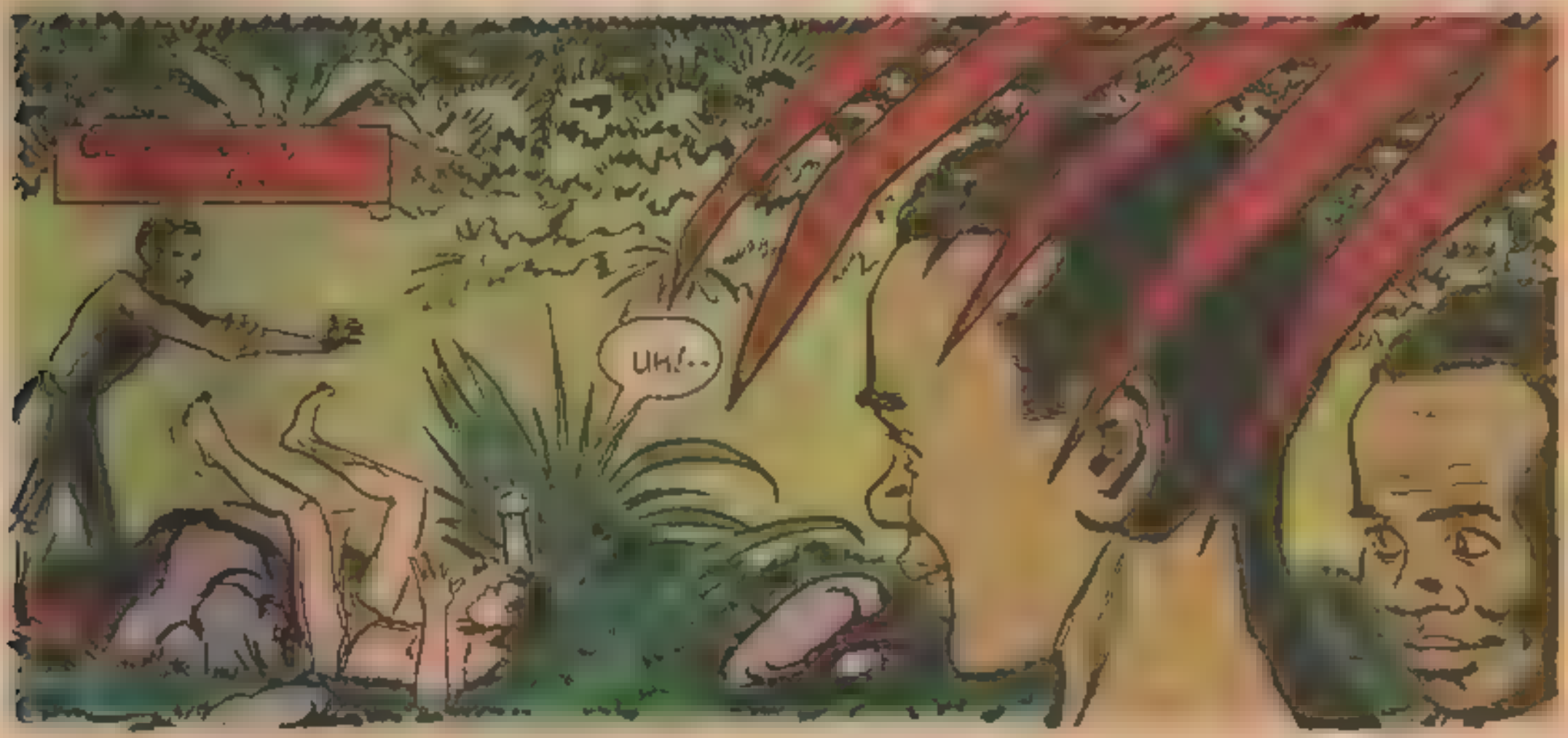

FIRST WE'LL LET YOUR MOTHER KNOW YOU'RE SAFE, THEN YOUR VACATION CAN BEGIN!

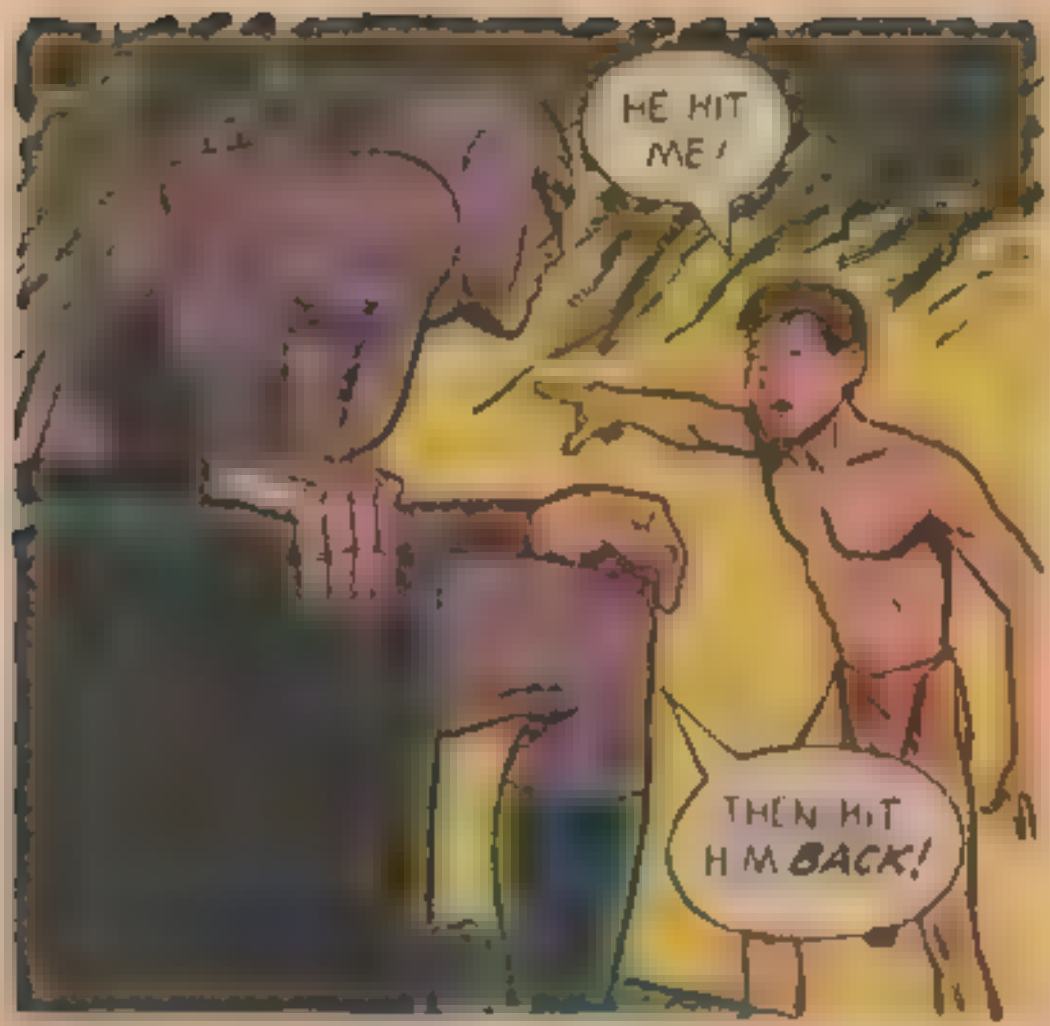
THE NEXT MORNING
THOSE CLOTHES WON'T LAST LONG IN THE JUNGLE! PUT THIS ON!

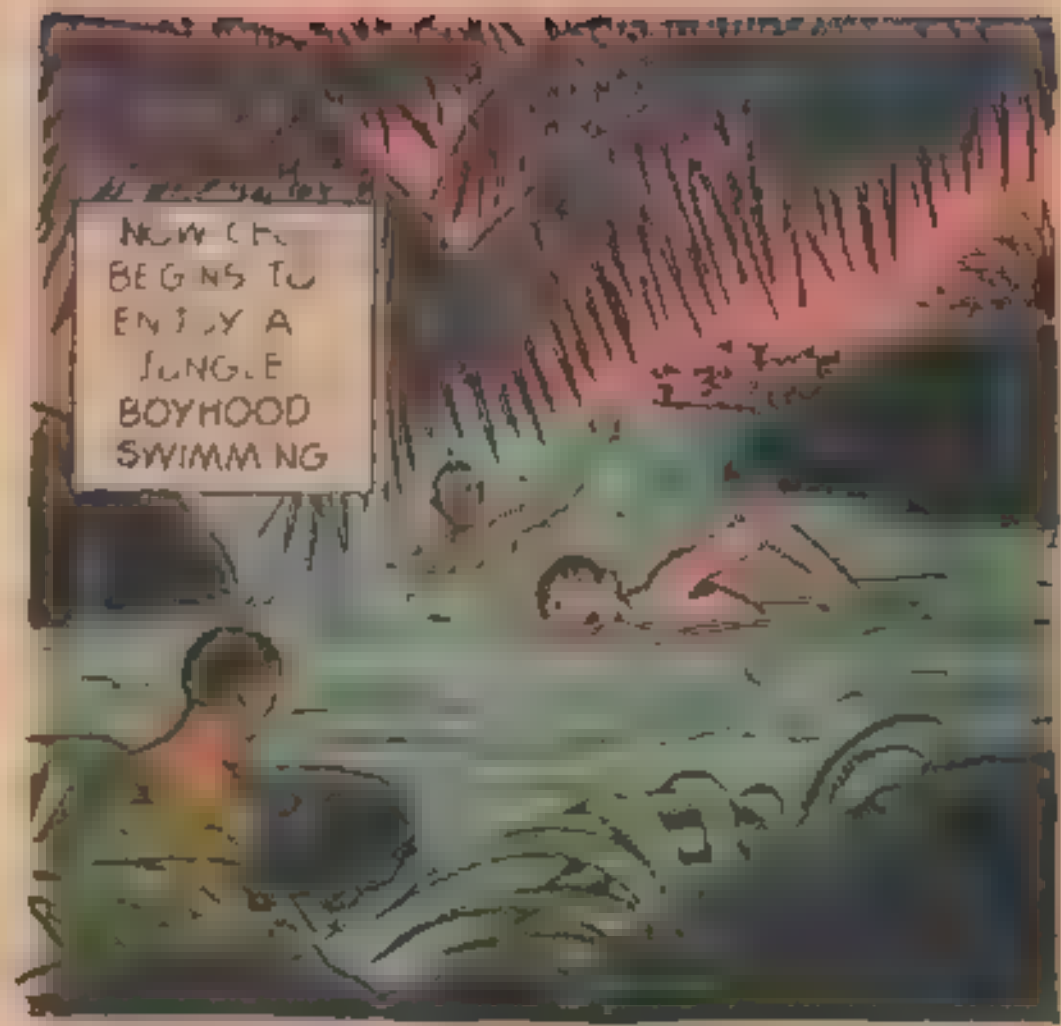
AREN'T YOU USED TO GOING BAREFOOT?
OU-- OUCH!

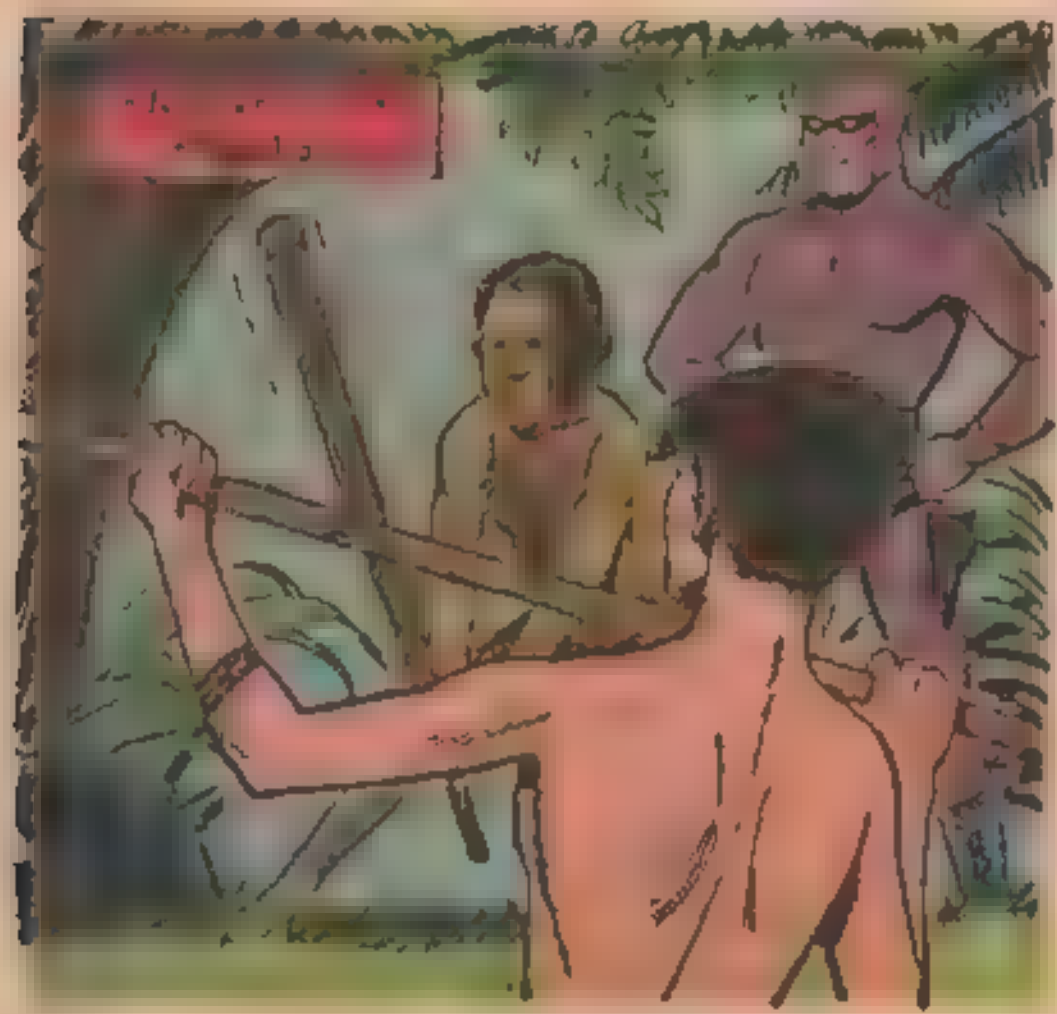

OTHER BOYS DID-- BUT MOTHER NEVER LET ME!


LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS, CECIL LEARNS TO PLAY WITH THE BOYS!
MOTHER S GOING TO BE SURPRISED WHEN SHE SEES HER CECIL AGAIN!

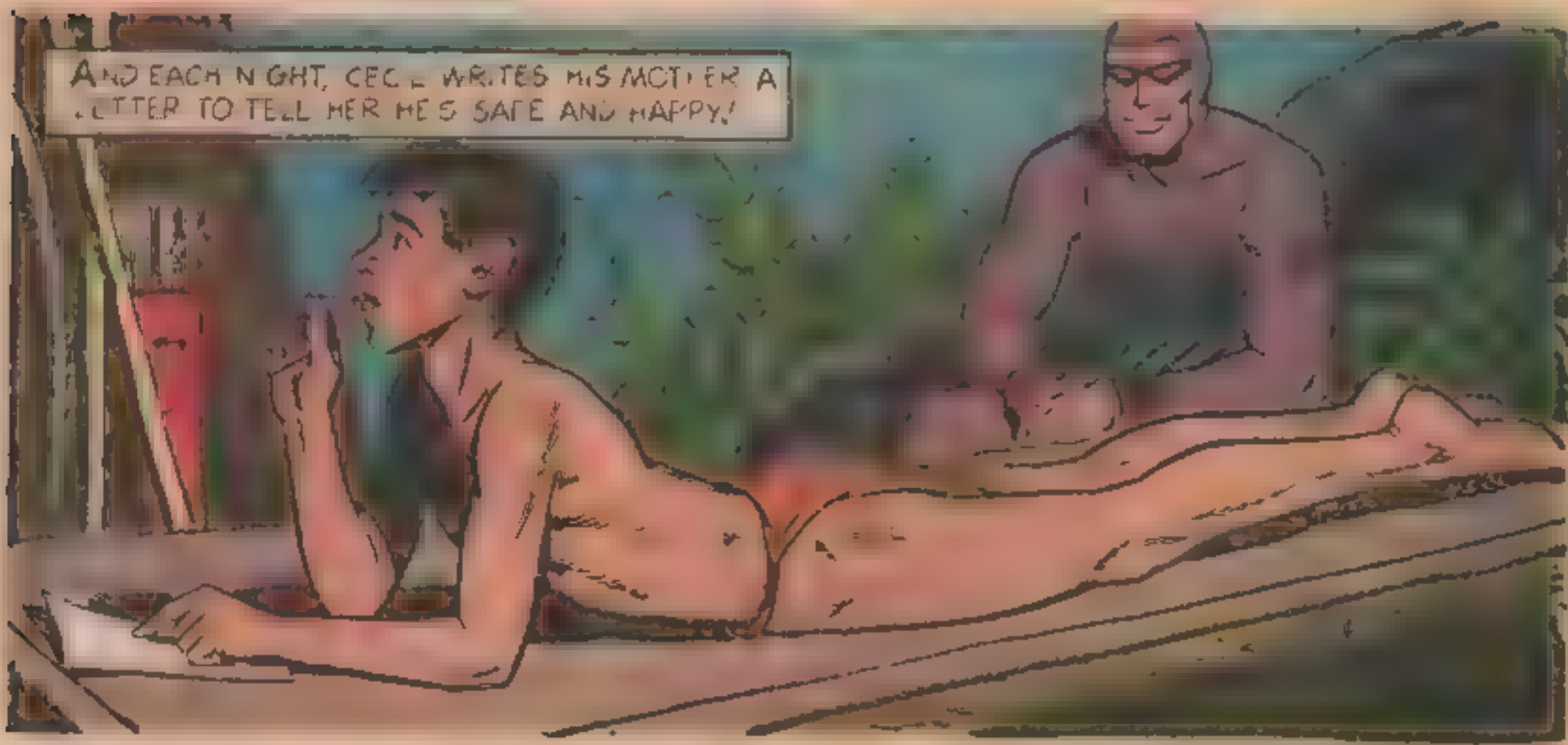

UH!--


HE HIT ME!
THEN HIT HIM BACK!


BEGINS TO
BOYHOOD
SWIMMING

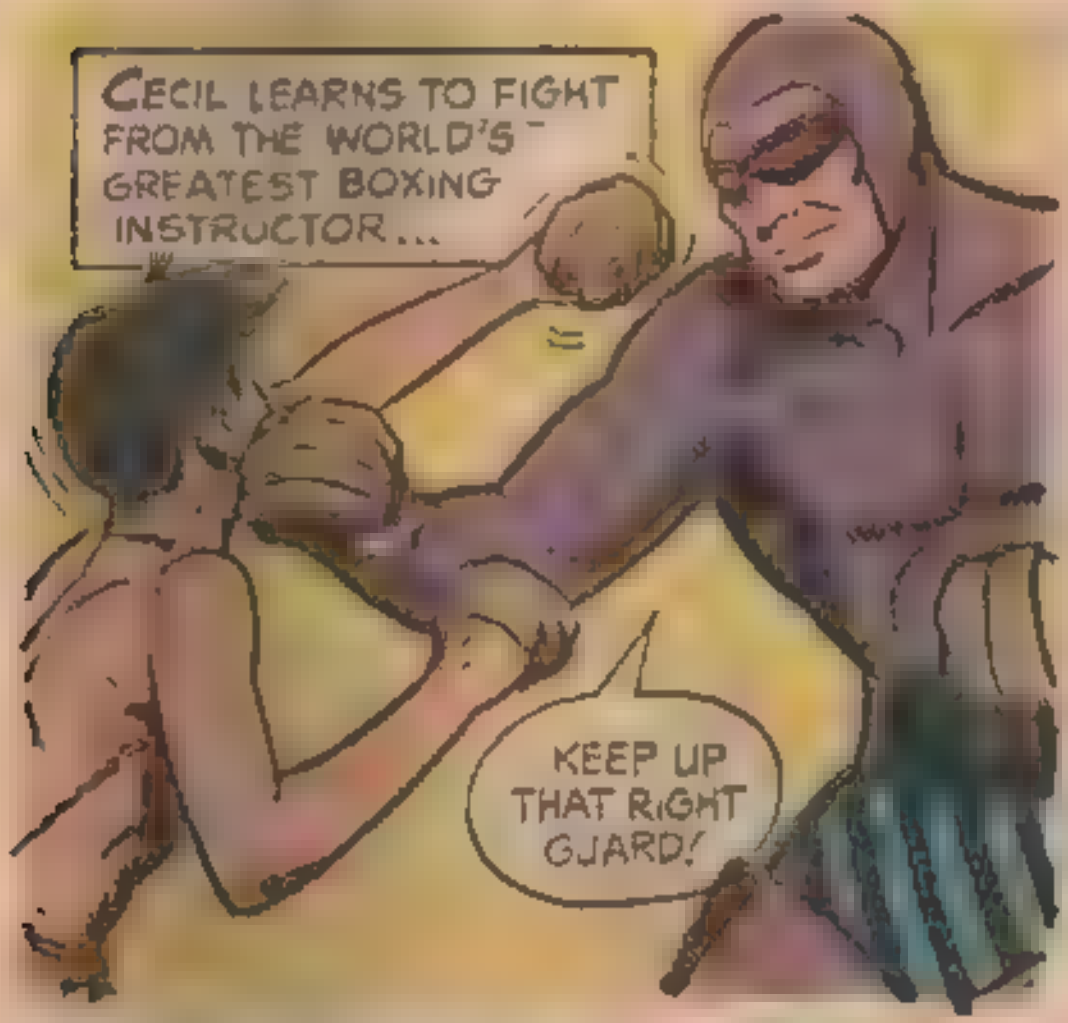


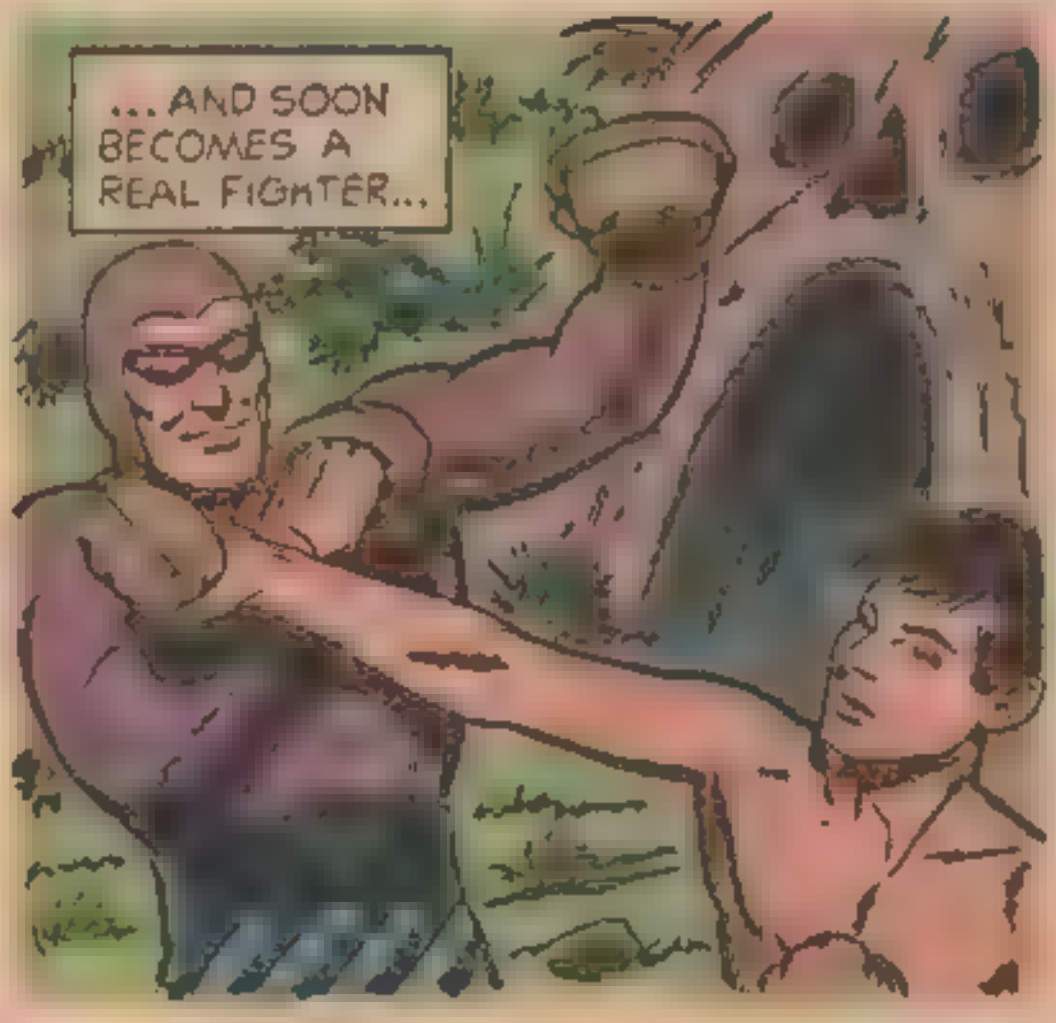
JUNGLE
GIANTS


AND EACH NIGHT, CECIL WRITES HIS MOTHER A LETTER TO TELL HER HE'S SAFE AND HAPPY!

BUT HIS JUNGLE LIFE ISN'T ALL PLAY! UNDER THE EXPERT TEACHING OF THE PYGMIES, CECIL LEARNS ARCHERY!

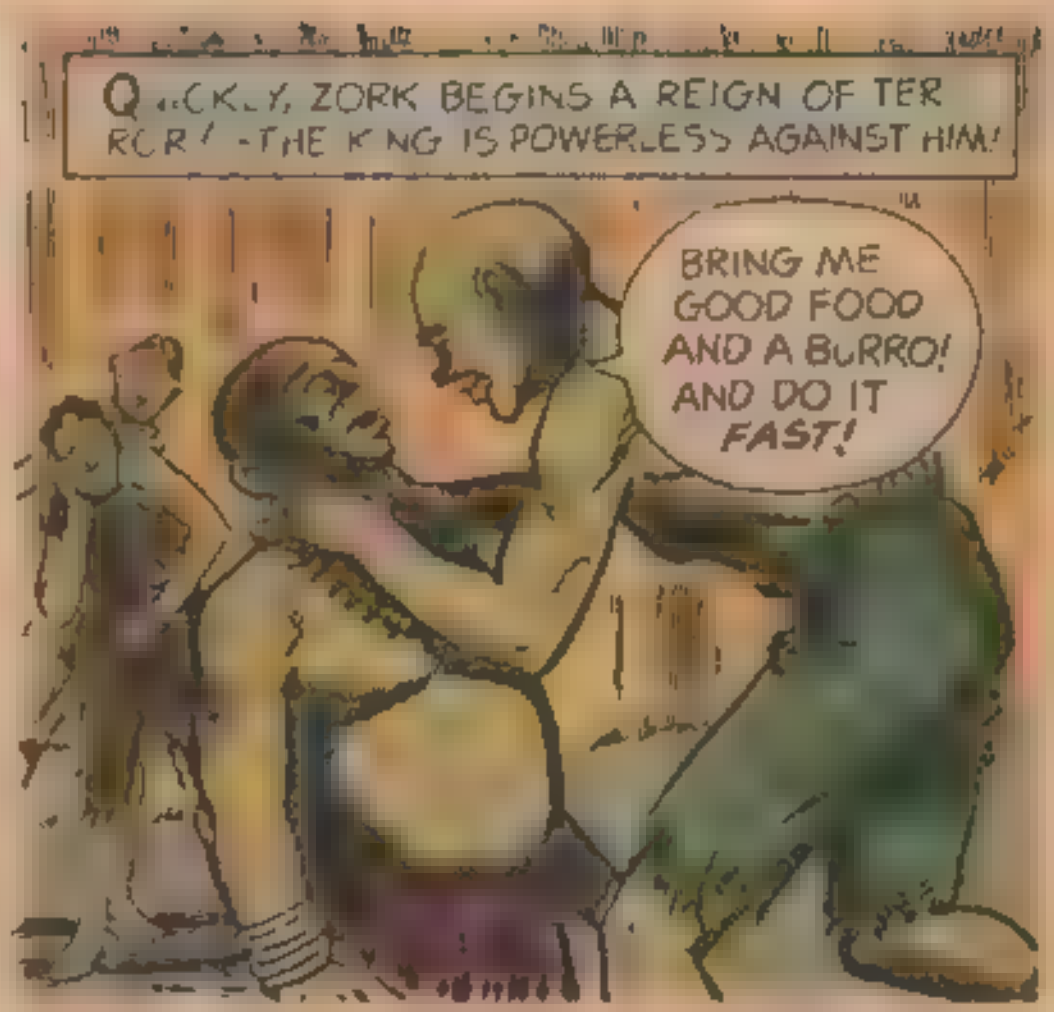
SOON, HE'S READY TO HUNT WITH THE PHANTOM!

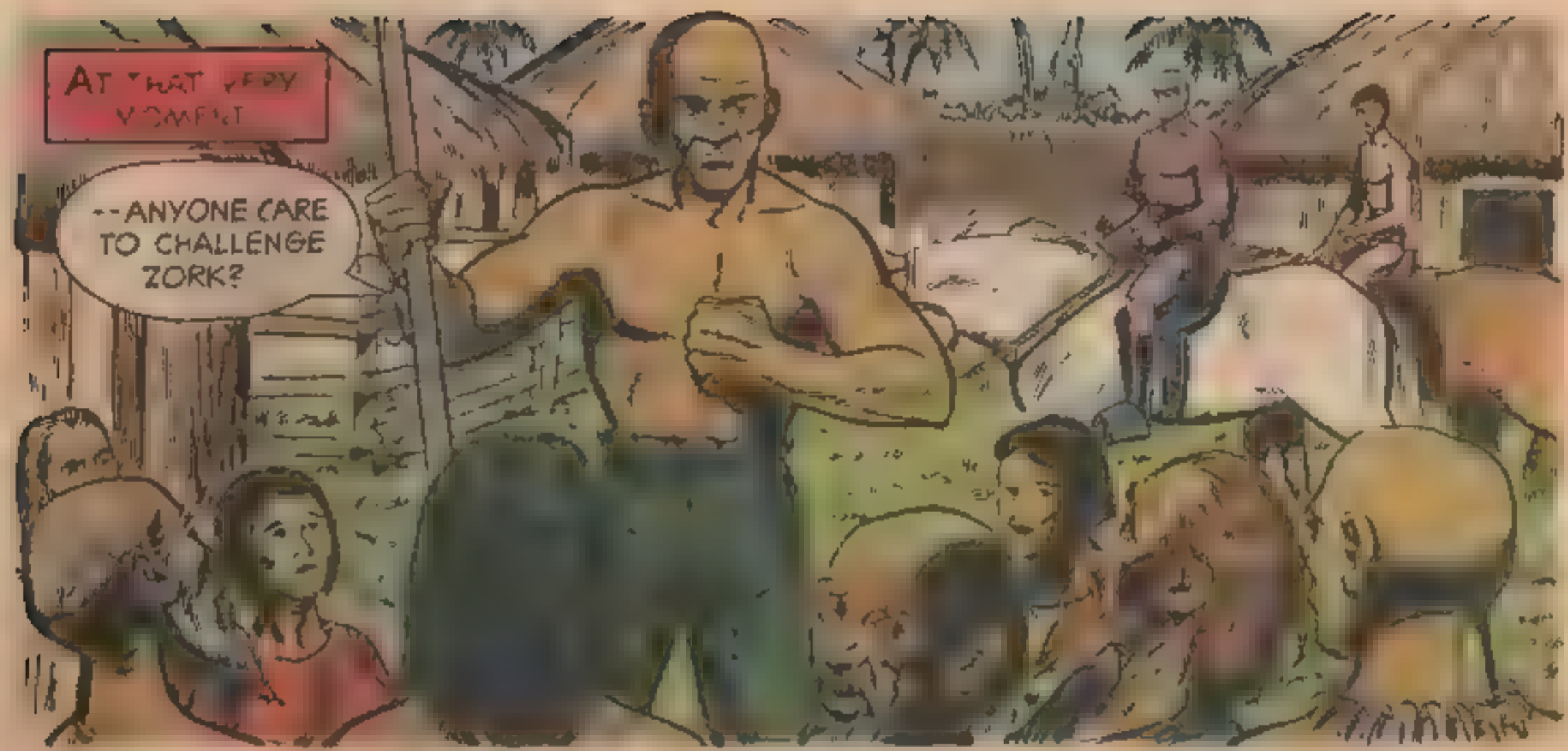

CECIL LEARNS TO FIGHT FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOXING INSTRUCTOR...
KEEP UP THAT RIGHT GUARD!


...AND SOON BECOMES A REAL FIGHTER...

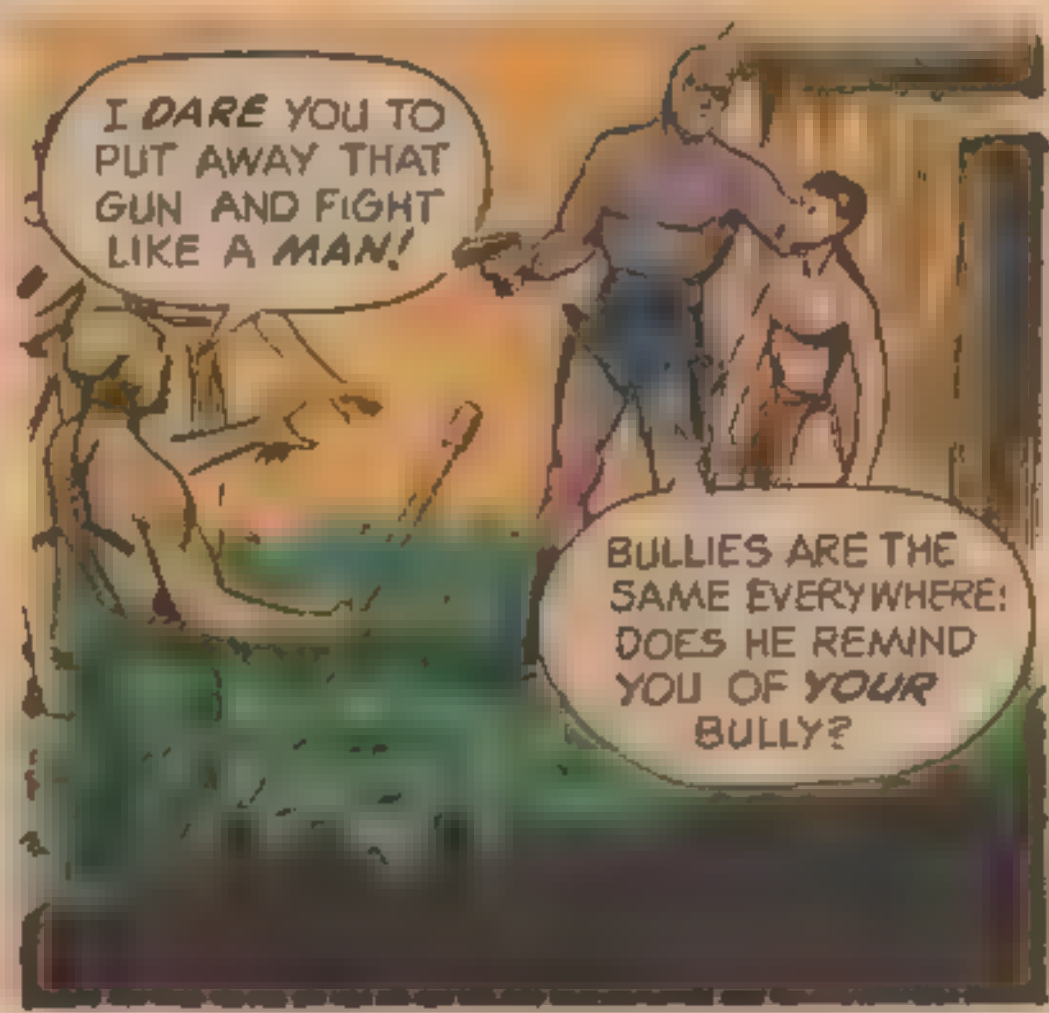
I'M KING OF THE MOUNTAIN!-- YOU CAN'T COME UP!
CAN THIS BE THE SAME PALE, SCARED KID OF A FEW WEEKS AGO?
MANY WEEKS PASS--CECIL BECOMES TANNED AND HARDENED IN THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE OF JUNGLE LIFE!

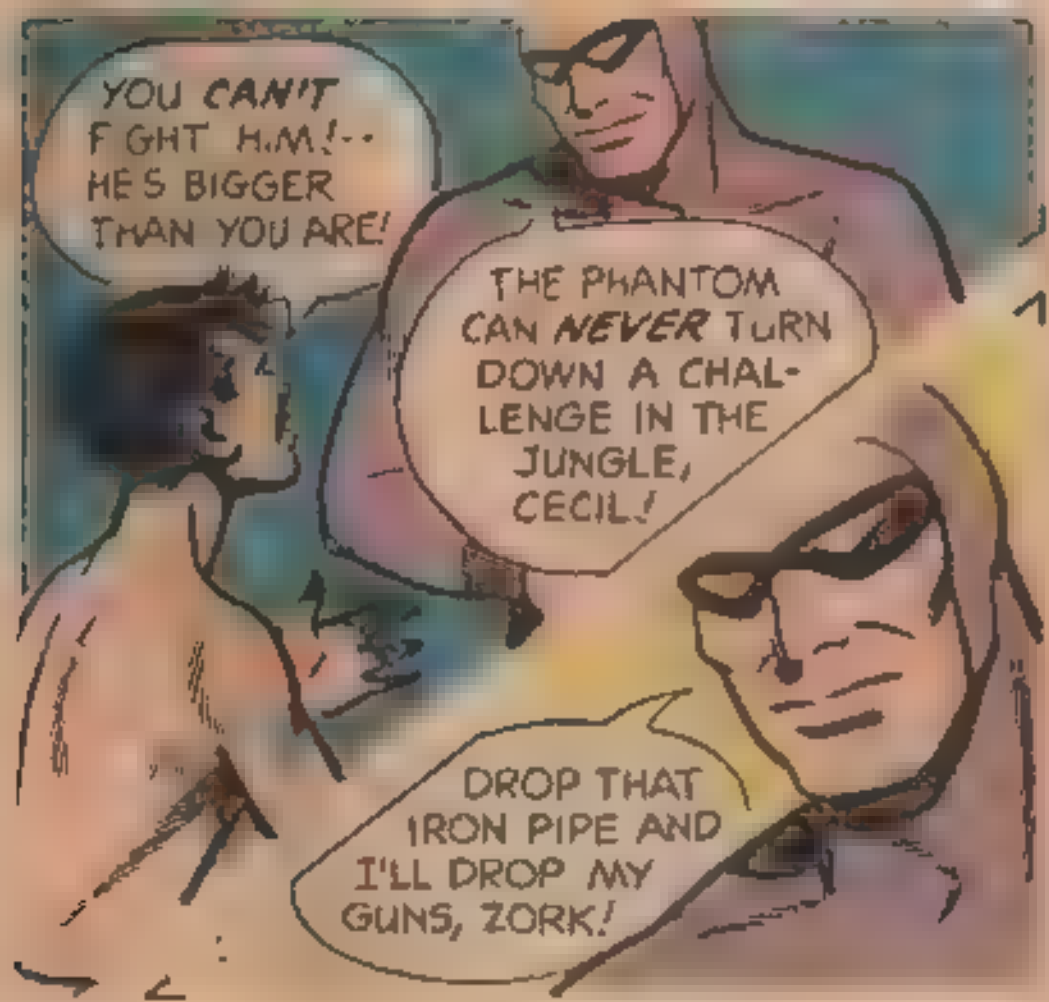
AT THE NEARBY WAMBESI VILLAGE, THE WARRIORS LEAVE FOR A HUNT, GIVING ZORK, AN EXILED RUFFIAN, THE CHANCE HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR!




AT THAT VERY MOMENT
--ANYONE CARE TO CHALLENGE ZORK?

WHO IS ZORK?
PHANTOM --THANK GOODNESS!
AH — GHOST WHO WALKS!

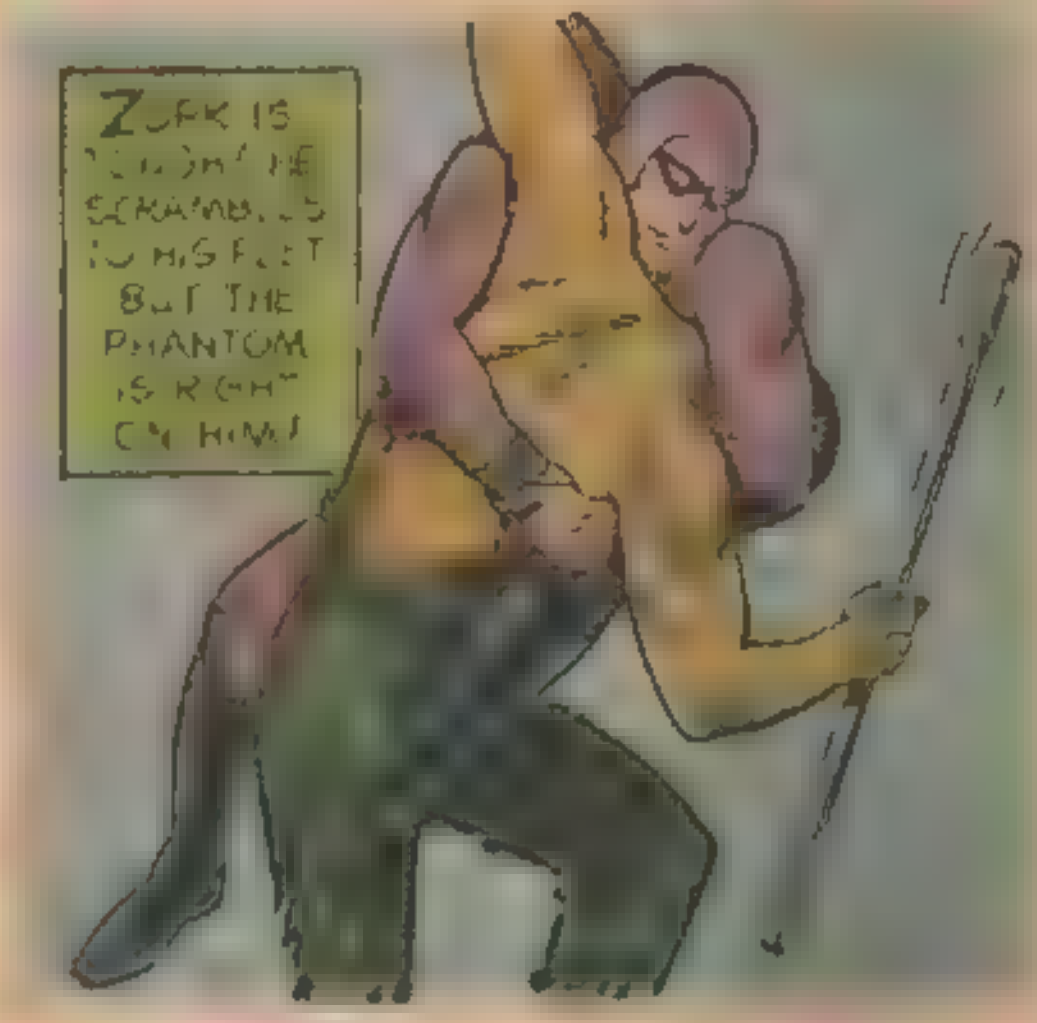

I DARE YOU TO PUT AWAY THAT GUN AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
BULLIES ARE THE SAME EVERYWHERE! DOES HE REMIND YOU OF YOUR BULLY?


YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM!-- HE'S BIGGER THAN YOU ARE!
THE PHANTOM CAN NEVER TURN DOWN A CHALLENGE IN THE JUNGLE, CECIL!
DROP THAT IRON PIPE AND I'LL DROP MY GUNS, ZORK!

BUT ZORK HAS RE-ARMED HIMSELF!

THE PHANTOM DUCKS ZORK'S HEAVY IRON PIPE ..
..THEN HE DIRECTS A PILE-DRIVER BLOW TO THE STOMACH!

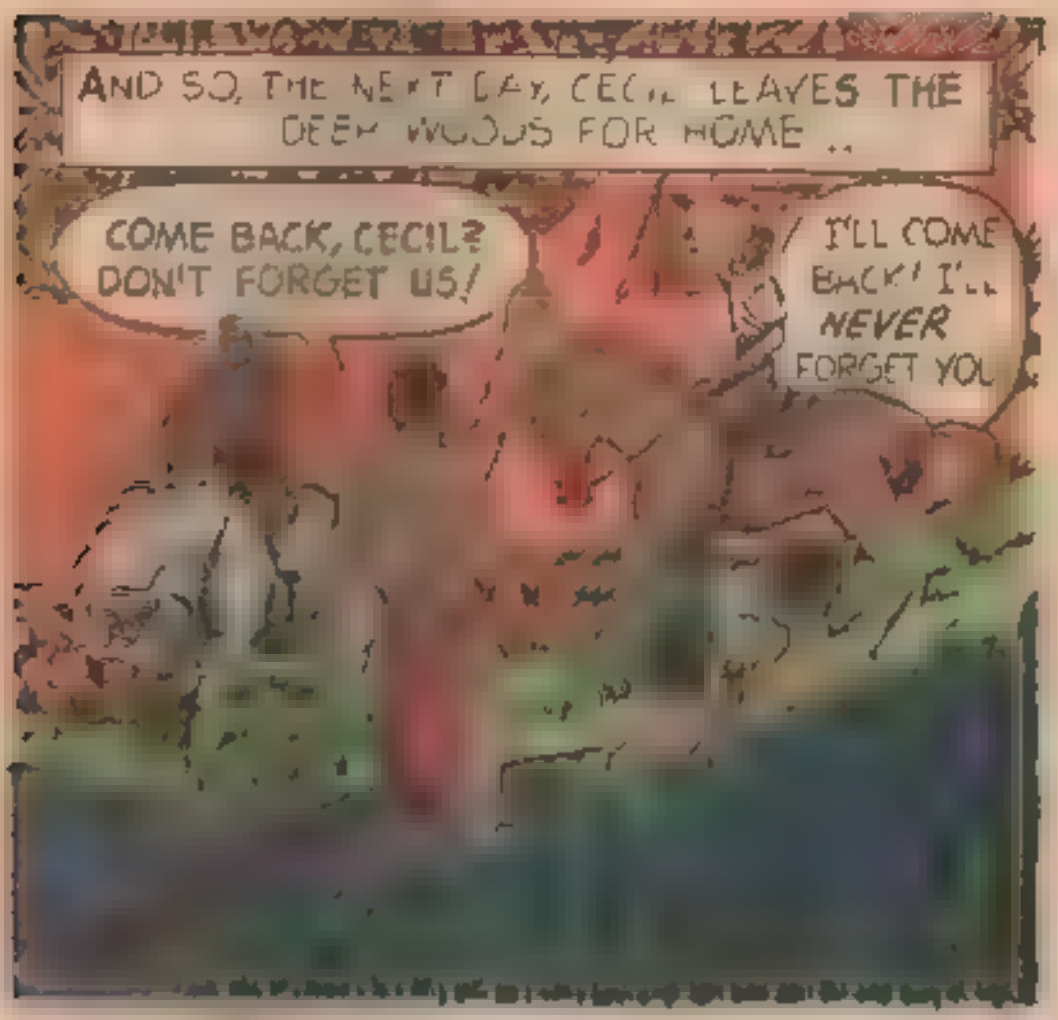
--THEN HE SWINGS THE GIANT INTO THE AIR!

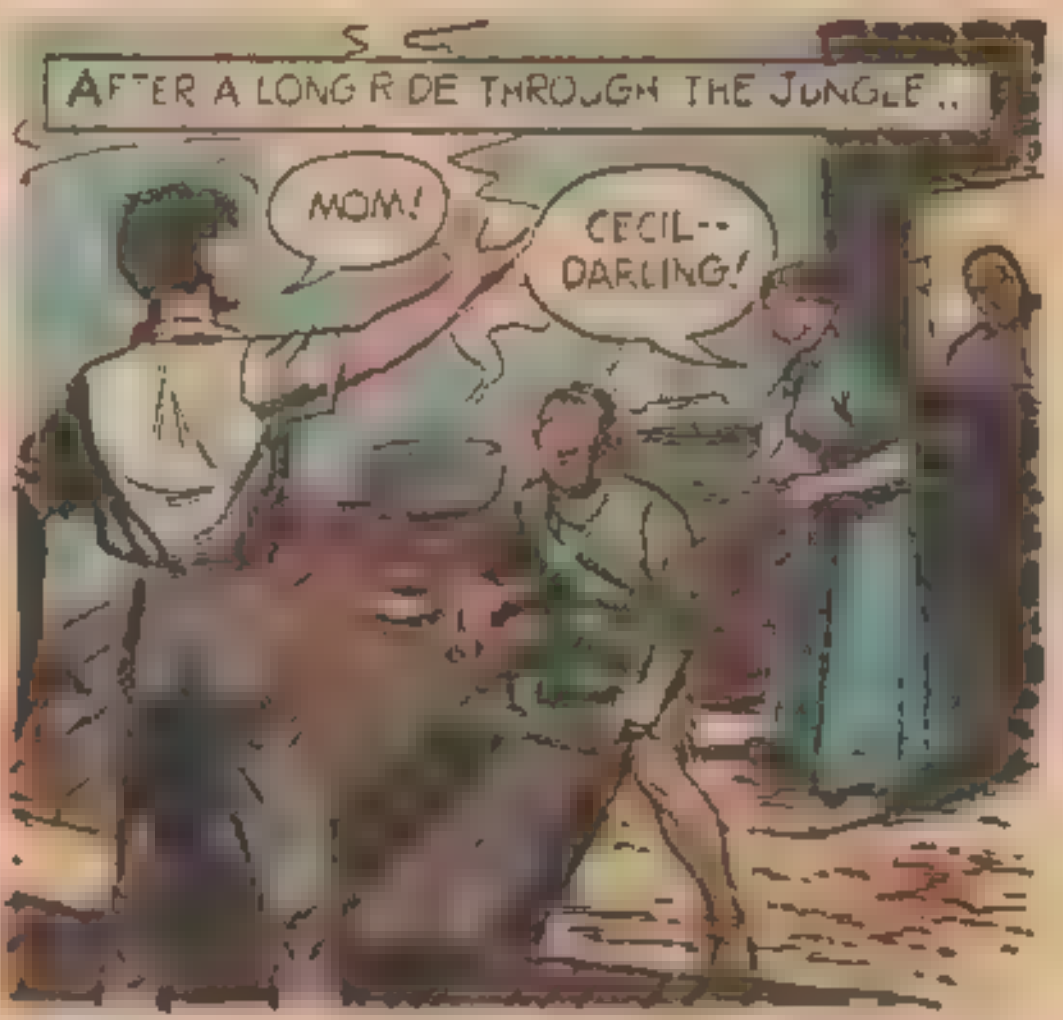

ZORK IS
BUT THE PHANTOM

AGAIN AND AGAIN, LIKE AN ANGRY HORNET!

WITHIN MINUTES, ZORK IS THOROUGHLY BEATEN!
PHAN—TOM!
HE BEAT THE BULLY!
PHAN-TOM!

YOU SEE, CECIL, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW BIG A BULLY IS! INSIDE THEY'RE ALL COWARDS!
I THINK I CAN FACE MIKE NOW!


AND SO, THE NEXT DAY, CECIL LEAVES THE DEEP WOODS FOR HOME ..
COME BACK, CECIL? DON'T FORGET US!
I'LL COME BACK! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU


AFTER A LONG RIDE THROUGH THE JUNGLE ..
MOM!
CECIL-- DARLING!

WITH CECIL GONE, BULLY MIKE HAS FOUND OTHER VICTIMS!
OUCH!
OUCH!

WELL, MIKE, STILL AT IT? BULLYING KIDS SMALLER THAN YOU?
GIVE IT TO HIM, MIKE!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE CRYBABY!

YOU LITTLE---! I'LL TEAR YOU APART!

YOUR FOOT-WORK IS BAD!
OOF!
AND YOU TELEGRAPH YOUR PUNCHES!

PLEASE DON'T (BLUB) HIT ME (BLUB) AGAIN!

GEE, CECIL, WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO FIGHT LIKE THAT?
CECIL, YOU WERE GREAT!

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ROADS and VEHICLES

NUMBER 8

The KING'S HIGHWAY

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This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

In the Middle Ages roadways were neglected. Many were merely wide trails of mud churned up by wagons and market-bound cattle droves.

In the 17th century, rising trade forced rulers to rebuild their roads. Peasants worked on roads several days each year without pay.

To meet the cost of highway construction toll gates were set up along the roads. Vehicles and travelers paid to get through.

Highway travel could be dangerous. Thieves roamed the countryside. Highwaymen held up coaches. "Highway robbery" became a byword.

The highway traveler found food and lodging at the roadside inn. Here coaches would stop to change their horses before traveling on.

THE PHANTOM PIN-UP NO. 3

A WEEK LATER...
I HAD A CURIOUS DREAM! HOW DID I GET HERE?
WE FOUND YOU ON THE DOORSTEP! THIS ARROW WAS RINGING THE DOORBELL! IT'S A RARE ARROW--OF THE BANDAR-- THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE!

THE BANDAR! THAT MEANS CENTRAL JUNGLE! THEN IT WASN'T A DREAM! THAT DIAMOND CUP IS REAL!

MONTHS LATER, AT THE BENGALI EXPLORERS' CLUB...
--AND THAT WAS IT-- ALEXANDER'S DIAMOND CUP!
A LIKELY STORY! FIRST YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE YOU SAW A DIAMOND CUP!-- THEN YOU SAY YOU SAW IN THE FLESH--THE PHANTOM-- A MYTH!
HE'S NO MORE REAL THAN THE BOOGEYMAN!

HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A LIAR, LORGEN! I'LL BET YOU HALF A MILLION IT EXISTS!
IF YOU BRING THAT CUP HERE SO A DIAMOND EXPERT CAN EXAMINE IT--I'LL TAKE YOUR BET!

HIS REPUTATION... AND A HALF-MILLION AT STAKE; WELLS BEGINS TO ORGANIZE AN EXPEDITION TO FIND ALEXANDER'S CUP!
YOU WANT A GUIDE TO TAKE YOU TO THE DEEP WOODS? THAT'S PYGMY COUNTRY! YOU'RE BALMY, WELLS!
THOSE LITTLE GUYS SHOOT ARROWS ON SIGHT!